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# Saipan Tribune

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## OPINION METER

**This week's poll:**  
Do you think a  
180-day delay in  
the implementation of  
federalization will  
help the CNMI?

Let your voice be heard!  
Go to  
**www.saipantribune.com**  
to cast your vote.

## INSIDE

### Volcano Blast

Alaska's Mount Redoubt erupted several times, spewing a more than 12-mile-high cloud.

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### Hard Times

The economic turmoil has been impacting the programs and fundraising of Filipino groups in the CNMI.

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### Second Adoption

Madonna is planning to adopt a second child from Malawi, officials said Thursday.

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\$250 out in May for Social Security, SSI beneficiaries. PAGE 2

Gaming commission backs Dynasty's stand on ILS. PAGE 3

## 'Millions lost from lack of CUC billing'

By KRISTI EATON  
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REPORTER

### Fitial: 180-day delay will occur

By KRISTI EATON  
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REPORTER



Fitial

Gov. Benigno Fitial says he is confident the Department of Homeland Security will grant his request for a 180-day extension to the enactment of the federalization law because there has

See FITAL on Page 4

The wastewater division of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. incurred a deficit of nearly \$4 million during the last fiscal year, while millions of dollars that should be going to the division is being lost because of a loophole in the law that allows some non-residential customers to go unbilled for service, according to the Georgetown Consulting Group.

### RELATED NEWS

CUC wants a higher power rate increase.

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Two areas in the wastewater billing process differ between residential and non-residential. For residential customers, whether metered or unmetered, they must pay a customer

See MILLIONS on Page 4

That's pretty rare and a little bit strange, quite frankly.

—Georgetown consultant Larry Gawlik

### CURRENT AND PROPOSED WASTEWATER RATES

#### Residential customers - monthly service charge

Customer charge	current rates	Apr. 3, 2009	June 3, 2009
	\$3	\$5.60	\$8.20

#### Residential customers - metered or estimated

Consumption Gallons	current rates \$/ kgal.	Apr. 3, 2009 \$/kgal.	June 3, 2009 \$/kgal.
0-5,000	included	included	included
over 5,000	\$0.50	\$0.93	\$1.37

#### Non residential - metered

Consumption Gallons	current rates \$/ kgal.	Apr. 3, 2009 \$/kgal.	June 3, 2009 \$/kgal.
All	\$0.50	\$0.93	\$1.37

#### Non residential - unmetered

Consumption Gallons	current rates \$/ kgal.	Apr. 3, 2009 \$/kgal.	June 3, 2009 \$/kgal.
All	\$0	\$0	\$0

## Earth Hour today will create wave of global participation

### ON THE NET

www.earthhour.org

- Over 930 cities and towns in 80 countries, across 25 time zones to power down for Earth Hour 2009
- Global icons add to lights out



At precisely 8.30pm today the diesel generators will be switched off on the Chatham Islands, a small archipelago off the east coast of New Zealand, heralding the start of the greatest community event the world has ever witnessed—Earth Hour 2009.

See EARTH on Page 4

### EARTH HOUR 2009

## What will you be doing?

Cuddling up with your loved ones and admiring the stars in the night sky or organizing a treasure hunt in the dark? At 8.30pm today, March 28, people from all corners of the world will turn off their lights for one hour—Earth Hour—

See WHAT on Page 4

### WELCOME BACK

Submarine tender USS *Frank Cable*, homeported in Guam, is back on Saipan with some 1,200 officers and crew, along with some 400 family members, for a weekend of rest and recreation. The ship arrived yesterday afternoon at the Port of Saipan in Lower Base.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



## IN CASE VS VILLAGOMEZ, SANTOS COUPLE

## US govt's motion to seal witness list denied

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
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REPORTER

The federal court has denied the U.S. government's motion to seal its list of witnesses in connection with the case

against Lt. Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez and co-defendants James A. Santos and Joaquina V. Santos.

In an order issued Thursday, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson said the U.S. government

asked on March 23 if it could file its witness list under seal. Munson said he determined that same day that the reasons the U.S. government gave were insufficient. The judge said the list was then

See US on Page 4



# Local

## \$250 out in May for Social Security, SSI beneficiaries

The federal government will be mailing out \$250 in economic recovery payments to people who receive Social Security and Supplemental Security Income benefits beginning in early May 2009 and continuing throughout the month.

No action is required to get the payment, which will be sent separately from the person's regular monthly payment.

Vice President Joe Biden and Michael J. Astrue, Commissioner of Social Security, announced the payouts Friday.

"The Social Security Administration and Commissioner Astrue have been working closely with other federal agencies to get these payments out the door in record time and into the hands of folks who need in most," said Biden. "These are

checks that will make a big difference in the lives of older Americans and people with disabilities—many of whom have been hit especially hard by the economic crisis that has swept across the country."

"We have been working diligently to issue the \$250 one-time recovery payments as soon as possible," Astrue said. "I'm pleased we are on track to issue

these recovery payments earlier than the statute requires. Soon more than \$13 billion will be in the hands of more than 50 million Americans."

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 provides for a one-time payment of \$250 to adult Social Security beneficiaries, and to SSI recipients, except those receiving Medicaid in care facilities. To

receive the payment the individual must be eligible for Social Security or SSI during the months of November 2008, December 2008 or January 2009.

The legislation also provides for a one-time payment to Veterans Affairs and Railroad Retirement Board beneficiaries. The VA and RRB will be responsible for paying individuals under their respective programs. However, if someone receives Social Security and SSI, VA or

RRB benefits, he or she will receive only one \$250 payment. People getting Social Security or SSI should not contact the agency unless a payment is not received by June 4, 2009.

For more detailed information about the \$250 one-time economic recovery payments, go to [www.socialsecurity.gov/payment](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/payment). To learn more about the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, go to [www.recovery.gov](http://www.recovery.gov). (PR)

## Participation of absentee voters in GOP primary urged

BY MONETH G. DEPOSA  
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REPORTER

The gubernatorial tandem of former governor Juan N. Babauta and Galvin Deleon Guerrero wants absentee voters to participate in the upcoming

NMI Republican Party primary for the November polls.

In a joint statement, Babauta and Deleon Guerrero said the team will submit a request to party officials to consider the petition of off-island families to join in the primary, set on June 27.

"There have been many inquiries from families and friends of off-island voters and from the off-island voters themselves whether they would be allowed to vote in the upcoming Republican [Party] primary election on June 27. The primary

is an important election as it will decide the GOP candidates for governor and Lt. governor in the November general election," it read.

The two expressed their full support and extending the right to vote in the primary to all eligible off-island voters. They too must be included in the deci-

sion-making process.

"[We] will submit a request to party officials to consider such inquiries and to explore all options possible, to the extent practical, to allow our off-island voters to have a say in the primary election," they added.

The activity may require additional cost for the party, but

they believe the activity is worth the money and the effort.

"To the extent we can be all inclusive, the better," they said.

NMI Republican Party chairman Ed Tenorio yesterday declined to give a statement on the issue, saying a meeting will be called to discuss the matter next week.

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# CUC wants higher power rate increase

By KRISTI EATON  
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REPORTER

Due to an increase in oil prices, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. and the Georgetown Consulting Group have increased

the power rate hike they are asking the Public Utilities Commission to implement.

In a March 6 report, Georgetown had recommended a new adjusted power rate of \$0.19327 per kilowatt-hour. But in a new

stipulation agreement between CUC and Georgetown, the two agencies are now asking for a rate of \$0.20147 per kilowatt-hour.

PUC will vote on the matter at a meeting on Thursday. The rate will be in place from April

1 through Sept. 30.

Since the March 6 report, oil prices have increased, the agencies said in their stipulation.

"Accordingly, the parties agree that it would be just, reasonable and prudent to adjust upward GCG's recommendation of an aggregate energy charge for the upcoming six months period to \$0.20147 per kWh" the stipulated stated.

The increased rate, however, represents a 12.4 percent reduc-

tion from the charge of \$0.22989 that has been in place since Jan. 1. The stipulation noted that the 12.4 percent reduction equals a savings of approximately \$21.32 per month for a residential customer using 750 kWhs per month.

This is the second levelized energy adjustment clause, or LEAC, rate to be set. The first LEAC began Jan. 1 and lasts through Tuesday. Subsequent LEAC rates will be set every April 1 and Oct. 1.

The LEAC is based on a formula using four factors. Three factors are totaled: the projected fuel expense for the coming LEAC period; the difference between the fuel revenue and actual fuel expenses as approved by the PUC; and refunds or credits from the supplier, excluding legal settlements. Those factors are divided by the projected retail kilowatt-hours for the next six months to develop the LEAC rate.

## Gaming commission backs Dynasty's stand on ILS

The Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission disclosed yesterday that it will support whatever position the Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino takes on the decision to cancel the instrument landing system project at the Tinian airport.

In a statement issued to the *Saipan Tribune*, commissioners hinted that they may ask the local delegation to reconsider its move to scrap the project if the Dynasty opposes the decision.

The delegation chairman, Sen. Joseph Mendiola, earlier said they would ask the Office of Insular Affairs to allow them to reprogram or transfer the funds for the ILS project to more pressing projects at the airport such as the renova-

tion of its terminal and commuter facilities.

The federal agency approved in 2007 to take out \$4 million from the \$8 million wastewater project on Tinian for the ILS.

"The TCGCC fully supports the needs of the casino operators and applicants to develop our casino industry and provide better service to their customers," the commissioners' statement said.

They added that if Dynasty opposes the move, the commission will step in.

"If the current casino operator and applicants believe that the ILS system is essential for them to expand their markets and provide better service to their customers, then we support them and ask that the Tinian del-

egation reconsider their position and continue with the ILS project," the statement said.

Yesterday, Tinian Dynasty hotel manager Tom Liu was hesitant to comment on the issue, saying whatever he may say is "immaterial" for now.

He pointed out, though, that the company has "been and always been" supportive of the project. "Nothing changes," he said.

On Monday, the delegation, CIP administrator, and Commonwealth Ports Authority will meet to discuss the issue.

*Saipan Tribune* learned that some \$20,000 to \$80,000 annually will be needed to maintain the equipment alone. (Moneth Deposa)

## Ex-convict gets 5 days for damaging car

Superior Court Associate Judge Ramona V. Manglona has imposed a five-day prison term on an ex-convict who damaged a car's side mirror.

Manglona sentenced Peter Reyes Lizama to one year in prison, all suspended except for five days, for criminal mischief.

The judge ordered the 34-year-old Lizama to report to the Department of Corrections on April 11 at 8am. The defendant

will be released from prison on April 16 at 8am. He will then be placed on unsupervised probation for one year.

Manglona ordered Lizama to pay an \$800 fine and a \$25 court assessment fee within one month from his release.

Manglona said restitution will be determined by the government within two weeks.

Lizama and counsel, assistant public defender Douglas W. Hartig, entered a plea agree-

ment with the government, represented by chief prosecutor Kevin Lynch.

The defendant pleaded guilty to criminal mischief.

Lynch agreed to withdraw the government's motion to revoke Lizama's probation in his previous criminal case.

The government charged Lizama for damaging the side mirror of a vehicle belonging to Florence C. Sablan on July 122, 2007. (Ferdie de la Torre)

## Man in passport switch gets 3-year probation

The federal court yesterday imposed a three-year prison term on a man who let a deportee use his passport.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson said that defendant Minghao Yin, a Chinese, will be referred to an Immigration official for deportation.

Munson said if immediate deportation does not occur and Yin is released, he shall immediately report to the U.S. Probation Office for supervision.

The judge required the defendant to complete 100 hours of community work service and pay a \$100 special assessment fee.

At the hearing, assistant U.S. attorney Kirk Schuler recommended a one-year probation, conditions of supervised release, and deportation.

Defense attorney Bruce Berline agreed with Schuler's recommendation.

In court papers, Schuler said Yin's situation and culpability differs from that of Jiang Zhejun.

While Yin allowed Zhejun to use his passport, Zhejun originally took the defendant's passport without the latter's knowledge, Schuler said.

"Defendant's mistake was furthering, and not correcting,

the criminal conduct Mr. Zhejun started. Despite voluntarily participating in the criminal conduct, [Yin] did immediately admitted his conduct upon arrest at the airport, and has cooperated with authorities ever since," the prosecutor said.

The 27-year-old Yin signed a plea agreement with the U.S. government. He pleaded guilty to misuse of a passport.

The U.S. government stated that on Aug. 16, 2008, Yin delivered his passport to Zhejun for the latter's use. (Ferdie de la Torre)

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MILITARY BRIEFS

**Frank Cable sailors volunteer at Saipan historic sites**  
**SANTA RITA, Guam**—USS *Frank Cable* sailors will volunteer to support community cleaning efforts at prime historic sites in Saipan during their visit to the island this weekend.

At the invitation of Saipan Mayor Juan Tudela, 15 sailors will clean, bushcut and trim vegetation at Sugar King Park and Central Park in Garapan, the Japanese bunker at the airport, and the Last Command Post in Marpi.

*Frank Cable* is visiting Saipan on their annual Family and Friends Cruise. *Frank Cable* offers the cruise to familiarize guests with what sailors accomplish while underway.

“I understand the sacrifices that Navy families deal with when service members are deployed or overseas,” said Capt. Pat Scanlon, *Frank Cable* commanding officer. “I hope that this cruise will enlighten them to the professionalism and dedication

every sailor onboard *Frank Cable* displays.”

As commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet’s only operational submarine tender, *Frank Cable* readily deploys to ports throughout the Western Pacific to provide services to both submarines and surface ships in the Seventh Fleet area of responsibility. **(PR)**

**Sailors support Guam community**  
**SANTA RITA, Guam**—Sailors from Navy commands on island will be participating today in a variety of events as part of the Navy’s Community Relations Program.

■ Naval Facilities Engineering Command Marianas and *Naval Computer and Telecommunications Station* Guam Sailors will support the Saturday Scholars program by tutoring students in grades 5-7 at Vicente S.A. Benevente Middle School at 9am-11am.

■ Naval Facilities Engineering Command Marianas Sailors will perform monthly cleanup with parents and teachers at Harry S. Truman Elemen-

tary School at 9am-noon.

■ Maritime Expeditionary Security Squadron 7 Sailors will assist at the Guam Animals in Need animal shelter by walking dogs, cleaning cages and performing grounds maintenance at 9am-noon

The volunteer work is part of the Navy’s commitment to build and harbor strong and lasting relationships with the community and support the island through various community relations

WHAT

From Page 1

and cast their vote for action on climate change. Anybody can participate and join together with millions of people across the globe celebrating Earth Hour.

Earth Hour is about taking simple steps everyday that collectively reduce carbon emissions—from businesses turning off their lights when their offices are empty to households turning off appliances rather than leaving them on standby.

Here are 10 different ways to spend

projects and events. **(PR)**

**USS Antietam visits Guam, helps local farmers**  
**SANTA RITA, Guam**—Crew members from visiting ship USS *Antietam* will help renovate the Farmer Co-Op building in Dededo today at 9am.

Sailors will scrape paint, lift tiles, and assist with other renovations of the old Dededo police station. They will work with members of the Dededo Mayor’s

Earth Hour and reduce your carbon footprint:

1. Attend a local Earth Hour event or organize your own by throwing an Earth Hour street party with your neighbors
2. Gather family and friends for a night picnic in your local park and look at the stars
3. Enjoy a family dinner by candlelight
4. Organize a treasure hunt in the dark
5. Take the dog for a night walk
6. Have a candle-lit bath
7. Sit in the dark and share stories
8. Organize a family night playing board games

staff, Dededo Municipal Council, University of Guam College of Natural and Applied Sciences, Department of Agriculture, and Guam Soil and Water Conservation districts.

According to Tom Camacho, of the Farmer’s Co-Op, the combined effort will accelerate the opening of the farmer’s market scheduled to be held in and around the building. A barbecue will be held for the volunteers using local produce. **(PR)**

9. Share a romantic night in with your loved one
10. Upload your “on the night” photos and videos to flickr and YouTube respectively, and then add them to the Earth Hour flickr group and the global YouTube Group.

Make Earth Hour work for you. Families with young children should feel free to turn their lights off earlier than 8:30pm and for those having too much fun in the dark during the hour, don’t feel you have to limit yourself to one hour and switch back on at 9:30pm.” **(PR)**

EARTH

From Page 1

As the first country to flick the switch for the global event, WWF New Zealand’s Earth Hour organizer, Dairne Poole sees her country as playing a vital role in Earth Hour’s journey to reach one billion people in over 1,000 cities, across 25 time zones.

“New Zealand will be the first country in the world to turn its lights off for Earth Hour 2009 with 43 councils and local bodies taking part. Even though we are a small nation,

we are setting an important example for others to witness and hopefully follow,” says Ms Poole.

The global wave of participation will gather momentum through Asia Pacific with major cities such as Sydney, Seoul, Beijing, Hong Kong, Kuala Lumpur, Manila, Singapore, Bangkok, Jakarta, Mumbai and Delhi dimming the lights as millions flick the switch to express their concern for the planet.

Across the globe Earth Hour will provide the platform for a collective voice to be heard from each and every time zone. From the streets of

Cape Town to the Hills of Los Angeles, Earth Hour will unite people from all walks of life as the call for action on climate change makes its transglobal journey.

Paris, the “City of Lights” will make a powerful statement by turning off its famous lights, including the Eiffel Tower, for Earth Hour. In the birthplace of democracy, thousands of Athenians will gather to watch the lights go out at the Acropolis in acknowledgement of their vote for action on climate change.

Metropolises across the Americas including New York, Rio de Janeiro, Toronto, Buenos Aires, Chicago, Mexico

City and Las Vegas will see their united voice accompanied by unfamiliar lighting—stars.

Earth Hour executive director Andy Ridley said that Earth Hour signals the beginning of the journey to Copenhagen, where the future of the planet rests with world leaders.

“Earth Hour will focus global attention on addressing the issue of climate change. We are asking one billion people to take part in what is essentially the first global vote for action on climate change by turning off their lights for one hour and casting a vote for earth,” he said.

“Earth Hour hopes to provide a global mandate for action on climate change to the world’s leaders at the UN Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen in December this year, where an agreement will be made to supersede the Kyoto Protocol.

“It is imperative this agreement leads to a sustainable outcome that suitably addresses climate change. Earth Hour presents an opportunity for every person in the world to have a say in that agreement’s outcome and ensure it isn’t merely an insubstantial token effort by our world’s leaders,” said Mr Ridley. **(PR)**

US

From Page 1

filed and not placed under seal.

“This order confirms the court’s oral order,” Munson said.

In a two-sentence motion, assistant U.S. attorney Eric S. O’Malley had asked the court to allow the U.S. government to make the witness list available to the defense only, with instruc-

tion for it not to be made public.

Ramon K. Quichocho, lawyer for Joaquina Santos, opposed this. Villagomez joined the opposition.

Quichocho argued that the U.S. government’s one-page motion fails to cite even a single reason that warrants the sealing requested and fails to override the primary justifications for openness of criminal proceedings.

The lawyer said the government’s motion fails to cite any compelling in-

terest why its motion should be granted.

“Absent that, the public and the press’ presumptive right of access to the records and documents protected by the First Amendment must take precedence over the government’s unstated and undefined compelling interest in having its witness list sealed,” Quichocho said.

The trial of Villagomez and the Santos couple is set for Monday at 1pm.

The judge has summoned 227 pro-

spective jurors, from among whom 12 plus one or two alternates will be selected to decide the fate of Villagomez and his co-defendants.

The prosecution and defense lawyers will then have their opening arguments.

The superseding indictment charged Villagomez and the Santos couple with bribery concerning a program receiving federal funds, conspiracy to defraud and to commit offenses against the U.S., wire fraud,

and theft concerning a program receiving federal funds.

The indictment alleged that Villagomez accepted a \$15,000 bribe from the Santos couple for approving the purchase of Rydlyme, a cleaning and de-scaling chemical, for the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. The couple was also charged with bribery for allegedly offering the \$15,000 to Villagomez. The three pleaded not guilty.

FITIAL

From Page 1

been no strong opposition.

“Come June 1, we’ll already have an extension. I’m saying this with confidence,” Fitial said in a recent news briefing.

The Consolidated Natural Resources Act, signed into law by President Bush in 2008, will extend federal immigration laws to the CNMI. The start date is June 1, although the law allows for a 180-day delay. A decision on any extension must be made

30 days before June 1.

The CNMI has sued the DHS and the U.S. Department of Labor to halt the implementation of the law.

Fitial earlier wrote DHS Secretary Janet Napolitano requesting the delay. He said he has not had any other communication with her, but believes the lack of local opposition is a good indication an extension will be granted.

“Nobody is against it. That’s a very strong indication; no one is against it. Everyone is supporting it,” he said.

Charles Reyes, press secretary for the Governor’s Office, said if one looks within the CNMI community,

all of the major entities support a delay—the Legislature, the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands, and CNMI Rep. Gregorio “Kilili” Sablan.

Sablan wrote his own letter to Napolitano seeking a delay. The Legislature passed a join resolution showing their support for Sablan’s request.

Reyes noted that Guam Gov. Felix Camacho and the Guam Legislature have also asked for a delay.

“There’s no guarantee,” he added, “but because there’s no significant opposition, we think that should be

encouraging.”

Logistically, it’s going to be difficult for DHS to implement the law starting June 1, Reyes said, adding that Homeland Security officials who earlier visited Saipan seemed to think the same thing.

“They could probably pull it together, but it’s not going to be pretty. They admitted it when they were here,” the press secretary said.

Howard Willens, special legal counsel to the governor who is representing the CNMI in the lawsuit against DHS and DOL, said that Homeland Security submitted a letter in January saying

they needed \$96 million to build the six ports of entries required under the law. Only \$5 million is currently available

“The size of request, in all fairness, they cannot implement this law with any degree of accuracy, fairness or thoroughness on June 1, 2009,” Willens said. “And after the extension is granted, which as the governor says we fully expect, then there will be time for the department to deal with its requests for Congress, and we will hear further about what their plans are and be able to make some judgment to the extent they will be able to implement the law.”

MILLIONS

From Page 1

charge and are billed according to usage. But unlike residential customers, non-residential customers, whether metered or unmetered, do not pay a customer charge.

“That’s pretty rare and a little bit strange, quite frankly,” said Georgetown consultant Larry Gawlik before the Public Utilities Commission yesterday.

But the bigger discrepancy is the fact that unmetered non-residential customers are not billed for usage at all.

“When you look at the nonresidential customers, you’ll see they can be billed if they have meter service, but if there is unmetered service, for some reason they can’t be estimated. The law doesn’t allow for them to be billed,” Gawlik said.

He said he would not disclose names.

“But let me just assure you there are some significant customers that fall in this group,” he added. “In essence,

they aren’t paying any money at all for wastewater service. And that’s just one example of many of the things that will be in the revenue cycle that, quite frankly, needs to be cleared up. That, I suspect, will literally be worth millions of dollars.”

Also, Gawlik said CUC has a high rate of uncollectible accounts.

Typically, he said, a water utility will have an uncollectible allowance of a half percent.

“So, in other words, they’ll send out \$100 worth of bills and collect every-

thing but half a percent,” or 50 cents, he said.

“In CUC, that number is much higher. We have not been able to get our hands around it because it varies a lot, but it certainly appears to be significantly higher,” Gawlik said. “I mean well over a factor of 10 higher, well over a factor of 10.”

The information came out as proposed rate increases for wastewater, which have remained unchanged since 1987, were discussed. Both CUC and Georgetown agree waste-

water rates should increase by 173.4 percent effective April 3, 2009, provided, however, that 50 percent of the increase should be suspended for approximately 60 days “[t]o permit the CNMI government and/or its entities to identify and tender to CUC funds from alternative sources,” the agencies wrote in their stipulated agreement.

Some of those sources include stimulus funds, Section 702 funds and \$3.2 million in delinquent utility bills owed by the Public School System.



COVENANT  
PARTY  
KICK-OFF PARTY

COVENANT  
PARTY  
KICK-OFF PARTY

# Siba Fitia! Ben Eloy Inos 2009

**Civic Center, Basketball Court**  
**11:00am - 4:00pm**  
**Sunday, March 29, 2009**  
 Waving 10:00am - 11:00am  
 Ceremony starts at 11:00am

- Food
- Refreshments
- Live Entertainment
- Exciting Gifts

Live Remote  
Broadcast by  
with  
**The Colonel**



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 NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

**PUBLIC IS INVITED  
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COVENANT PARTY  
KICK-OFF  
PARTY

COVENANT PARTY  
KICK-OFF  
PARTY



# Opinion

Hafa Adai!

## Saipan Tribune

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MEMBER

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Pacific Islands News Association

### EDITORIAL

## Consistent, and harsh

**W**hen a 9-year-old girl in Brazil was recently found to be pregnant with twins, doctors performed an abortion. In Brazil, the procedure is legal only in cases of rape or to save the mother's life, and doctors determined that both applied to the girl—her stepfather was jailed on rape charges, and the 80-pound child was too physically immature to carry twins to term.

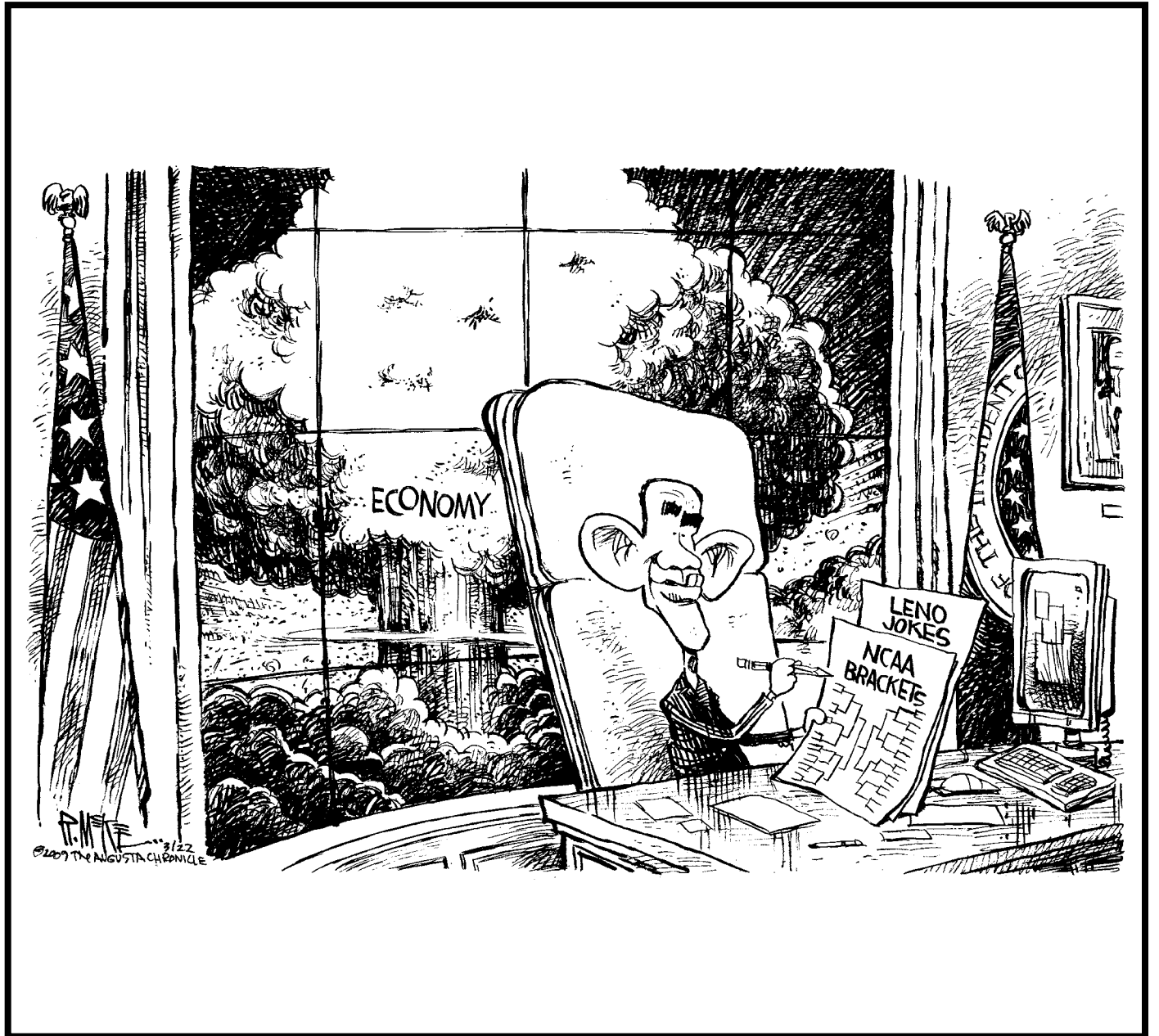
In response to this tragedy, a Brazilian archbishop pronounced the doctors and the girl's mother excommunicated from the Catholic Church, a decree met with incredulity around the world. Further fueling the outrage, the head of the Vatican's Congregation for Bishops added that the "real problem" was abortion, not the endangered life of the girl. Just days later, en route to AIDS-ravaged Africa, Pope Benedict XVI openly doubted the efficacy of condoms in halting HIV transmission. In both cases, it seemed that church policy trumped not only effective public health measures but compassion.

In Brazil, the church's actions suggested that the suffering of a young girl was of little concern compared with consistency on abortion. And ultimately, Rome acknowledged that the episode was badly handled. Writing in *L'Osservatore Romano*, Archbishop Rino Fisichella said the excommunications, which by church law are incurred automatically when abortion is procured or performed by adults, did not have to be blared to the world. Instead, the child "should have been defended, hugged and held tenderly to help her feel that we were all on her side."

And there are "sides." Brazil is in a tussle with Rome over abortion, contraception and HIV/AIDS prevention, and sympathy for the girl's plight threatened to shift public sentiment away from church decree. President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva favors loosening restrictions on abortion and promotes sex education, deploring that 30 percent of girls ages 15 to 17 drop out of school pregnant. The government gives away billions of condoms yearly, and Lula once called for a "national day against hypocrisy" regarding HIV/AIDS. The truth is, Brazilian women have abortions; they simply risk their lives to do so. Health officials say that each year about 200,000 women are hospitalized after botched procedures, and about 1 million terminate pregnancies.

Fisichella's point, however, was one of emphasis, not policy; the church, he lamented, seemed heartless. The haste and subsequent hue and cry, Fisichella wrote, "impacted the credibility of our teaching, which appears in the eyes of many as insensitive, incomprehensible and devoid of mercy." Well said. After all, the one person whose behavior did not expel him from the Catholic community was the girl's alleged rapist.

(c) 2009, Los Angeles Times



## A cause for the first lady

**“Y**ou don't know what she did to him. She might have provoked him!” It surprised me. This vehement defense of singing superstar Chris Brown for allegedly beating his girlfriend, Rihanna, also a singing superstar, wasn't coming from his superlawyer for a giant fee. And it wasn't coming from the men in the room. It was coming primarily from teen-age girls at a middle school I visited recently. If pressed to choose which singing star was at fault, a shocking number said that Rihanna must have “brought it on herself.”

Then I realized I was hearing the same things on television and radio talk shows, local and national. Brown's defenders weren't all teeny-bopper fans; many were adults, some of whom acknowledged personal experience with domestic violence.

At least initially, a large contingent of people thought that Rihanna was guilty until proven innocent. Not only were they willing to defend Brown, but they also seemed convinced that she must have done something to “deserve” being beaten. Even after a tabloid released photographs of Rihanna showing extensive bruises and swelling, some persisted in defending Brown. Her decision to reunite with him after the photos were published was seen in some quarters as confirmation that she had somehow wronged him from the beginning.

I found myself wondering how we reached the point where so many people could hold these views about domestic violence. Even though there are public campaigns to stop this scourge, it sometimes feels as though we are losing ground. A disturbing number of young women seem to think that some level of violence is not only acceptable but even expected in a loving relationship.

We need a public education campaign to reverse this trend. I can't say what the whole thing should entail, but I can tell you that Michelle Obama could be a pivotal figure in the effort.

In my discussion with the middle school students, I could tell that I was losing the argument. They were unpersuaded by statistics and information about the cycle of violence. Finally, exasperated, I blurted out, “Do you think Barack would ever hit Michelle like that?”

Everyone in the room froze. One student weakly suggested that “Michelle is big enough to fight back,” but I knew I had them then.

“Even if she were a foot shorter, can you ever imagine Barack hitting Michelle?” I pressed on: “Is there anything she could possibly do that would lead you to think she deserves to get beaten?”

By GLENN F. IVEY  
Special to The Washington Post

The writer is state's attorney for Prince George's County, Md.



At that point, the debate was over. Putting hands on Michelle Obama was somehow unthinkable.

“I know we can't imagine that happening to Michelle. She doesn't deserve to be beaten.” I looked at the Chris Brown defenders and said, “Rihanna doesn't deserve to be beaten. And you don't deserve to be beaten either.”

I wish I could say that my eloquence and logic won them over. But it wasn't about me. It was the power of Michelle Obama.

So that's why I hope that the first lady will make domestic violence one of her primary issues. I know this could be viewed as far too controversial, especially since first ladies frequently stick to safe—but important—topics such as illiteracy and hunger. Domestic violence can be viewed as inappropriate for polite conversation, so some political risk would be involved.

But this sort of campaign is clearly needed. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that about 1,200 deaths occur each year as the result of domestic violence. Nearly 2 million attacks annually don't result in death but can be nearly as devastating—such as what happened to Yvette Cade of Clinton, Md., in October 2005, when her estranged husband set her on fire. The Chris Brown/Rihanna case is the sort of domestic violence that I see nearly every day in my job as a prosecutor.

On top of all this, the ripple effects of violence continue to rip apart families and distort young minds. Many of the killers that come through my courthouse have a history of domestic violence in their homes. It will take powerful forces to break that generational curse.

For years groups have sought to reduce domestic violence nationwide. We would all benefit from the credibility and charisma that the first lady would bring to these efforts. Perhaps with her help, we could reverse recent trends and reduce domestic violence in America.



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The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

## Richard in the House of Horus

Some female friends were upset that I focused the series on the House of Horus on just the women. Horus is a male god, son of Ra-Osiris and Isis, the goddess of fertility along the Nile. Falcon-headed Horus just lent his name to the onomatopoeically coined female label by misguided missionaries out to condemn the practice of temple sex rituals. A sixth installment is thus in order.

Internet denizens have probably received a copy of the paparazzi-caught photo of Prince William of Wales taken while the royal prick was spouting royal showers at a sporting event. We are inclined then to call this installment a “Dear William” letter, but we will defer to one of his ancestors, Richard the Lion-Hearted.

So, “Dear Dick.” We will try to catch the highly transient clients in what is now becoming a highly transient group of devotees in the House of Horus.

At the low end of the market are the “barracks” that have evolved for those engaged in similar activities like farming and construction. As has now become a slogan in many places, “Everyone is single in Saipan.” The absence of abundant disposable income does not bode well with frequency of service, but where the demand is there, the service is delivered.

A *nu gong* (woman worker) relates how she befriended a taxi driver when the authorities put the heat on the *collorums* (Pinoy for illegal rides). After a couple of long interval trysts at her place, he suggested that he pick her up after hours and they’d go to his place for an early morning repast. Feeling magnanimous, *nu ren* consented. He picked her up in a half-decent slightly rattling car. She did not mind; there were glances of affection between the two and in her profession, this did not come often so she relished it when it came.

His room was bare but clean, sparse but organized, rather tastefully Spartan. She felt good and “at home” until, after some unhurried groping, she noticed two other guys in the room, grinning like a couple of puppies about to be served cream milk. The driver explained that he will forgo the discount price she usually expects from him if she would do all three of them. *Nu ren* discontinued patronage of the taxi service the following day.

Filipino construction workers tend to drink their sorrows

together while competing on who can best vocally render *My Way* and *The Impossible Dream* before the captive non-English speaking but amiable former residents along the Chiang Jiang river. After a couple of beers, they pool their hard-earned resources together and see if they can all afford to each get one of the girls they had been avoiding buying a drink for, to execute a quick tumble. Afterwards, they head home, get cleaned up and attend early Mass to wash their sins away.

The Hanggul-speaking businessman tends to be, well, business-like. At the appointed hour, usually called-in two hours before, he shows up in his SUV paid for by half-a-dozen poker parlor and landrymat combos. He showers quickly, effects a wham-bam-thank-you-ma’am routine, and then flops down for a back-rub and a 30-minute nap. Then he heads to dear wife and the private school matriculated kids. He drives them to the obligatory tutorial service while wife prepares the *bulkogi* and *kimchi* for dinner. She is not ignorant of his dallying nor is he apologetic about it. *Nu ren* is not unhappy with the regularity and dependability of income, either. The books are balanced and personnel are happy. What more does one want from a business?

Older Koreans, the kind who gather for brunch at Mickey D’s on Middle Road, tend to shy away from the music rooms, but will entertain their guests in sushi bars over *jinro*-on tea, or Santori whiskey. When it is an all-male crowd, the company of younger girls is often called for though the sharing of fluids is confined to the raised jigger. Girls have been known to decry participation in these rites since the pay is measly hourly rates, tips stingy, and invariably results in a hangover in the morning!

Younger Hanggoks tend to be tourists, and they like to carouse the night away in rambunctious songs, wild dances, and overflowing cups. They usually contract a lady’s time for the whole evening. Tour guides drive them to one of the magnificent seven known Korean music rooms on island. The girls find the bouts exhausting as the ginseng-induced highs seemed to ferociously long.

The Japanese tourists have been known to bring their own “Shinjuku” escorts, or rely on the abundant supply of single ladies who come to the island for adventure and sightseeing tours.

### By JAIME VERGARA

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune’s *Opinion Section*.



There is, however, a kinky side to Nippon sexuality that has been the object of psychological studies and art form depictions, and our ladies have been known to adopt well in catering to the demand. Except for a couple of bruises usually sent off with due compensation and long apologies, talk of this market is rare but nevertheless acknowledged as being there.

Older Japanese of means just take on “mistresses.” For a fee, they come on island quarterly and assignments are set on an annual calendar, sometimes continuing even when a *nu ren* had already returned home. Rendezvous on Saipan is more on the higher end of the industry’s offering, and happily, outside of the scheduling of tour operators and guides.

Service to uniformed personnel often begins at bars and strip joints where the cover charge is waived when a ship is on port. Our ladies do report gentlemanly conducts and the increased use of the rabbit (like the energizer that goes on, and on, and...) since it was popularized in the TV show “Sex and the City.” Today’s male, after all, has discovered the pleasure of pleasuring the pleasurer as a skill in the process of refinement, and the ladies of the night are only too happy to obliged when they chance upon such chivalrous practice of the modern times.

We’ve skipped the tribe of the retiring or retired mainland male out for a second domestic life in the tropics, or the local who signed the dotted line three times for three IRs for two Chinese *nu ren* and a Pinay. We did want to confirm the truth of the adage: Moneyed Dicks do make the world go round! Or, get the round-the-world service. Whatever.

## 5 myths about nuclear power

Thirty years ago this week, a chain of errors and equipment malfunctions triggered the defining event in the history of American nuclear power: the accident at Three Mile Island. Although no one died and the health consequences were insignificant, the mishap was vivid confirmation that things could go wrong with a nuclear reactor. It almost instantly galvanized popular opposition to this form of power, giving rise to lingering misconceptions about one of our nation’s largest sources of electricity.

### 1. Three Mile Island killed the idea of nuclear power in the United States.

The 1979 accident and the fear it spawned were undoubtedly setbacks to the nuclear power industry. Only recently did utilities even attempt to license new reactors again. But Three Mile Island didn’t even kill nuclear power at Three Mile Island. While TMI 2 was destroyed, TMI 1 is still in operation today. In fact, in generating electricity, nuclear power is second only to coal, which produces about half the power we use. Nuclear today produces more electricity than it did at the time of the accident—about 20 percent compared with 12.5 percent in 1979.

### 2. Long half-lives make radioactive materials dangerous.

It’s impossible to read anything about the problem of nuclear waste without having to consider enormously long periods of time: thousands of years, or tens of thousands, or even longer. The Web site Greenpeace.org, for instance, points out that plutonium 239, a byproduct of uranium fission, “has a half-life of approximately 24,000 years. ... However, the hazardous life of radioactive waste is at least ten times the half-life, therefore these wastes will have to be isolated from the environment for 240,000 (years).” There seems to be something intrinsically evil about anything that persists for so long. But a long half-life doesn’t necessarily make a substance dangerous.

A half-life is a measure of how fast a radioactive material decays. Take Carbon 14. This is a slowly decaying radioactive isotope present in natural carbon, which occurs in all living things. Archaeologists and scientists measure the amount of carbon 14 remaining in an object to calculate its age. A useful, radioactive and harmless part of every person, Carbon 14 has a half-life of 5,730

years. Conversely, some short-lived isotopes can be extremely dangerous. Nitrogen 16, which is produced in operating nuclear reactors, emits very high-energy radiation despite its half-life of just 7.1 seconds.

None of this is to say that radioactive waste isn’t dangerous or isn’t a problem—even industry boosters identify it as one of the biggest challenges they face. But the problem isn’t the material’s half-life—it’s the level of radioactivity it possesses.

### 3. Nuclear power is bad for the environment.

Many nuclear reactor byproducts are dangerous and require careful long-term storage. This is at the root of the fairly widespread belief that nuclear power is incompatible with a concern for the environment, even though its effects compare favorably with coal’s.

The top environmental concern for most of us is global warming, and nuclear power is by far the biggest source of emission-free power we currently have, contributing none of the greenhouse gases that coal plants spew by the ton every day. Neither does nuclear power require the decapitation of Appalachian mountains or the construction of billion-gallon sludge ponds. So why won’t environmentalists even consider the nuclear alternative? Some have, notably former Greenpeace member Patrick Moore, Whole Earth Catalog founder Stewart Brand and Gaia theorist James Lovelock. But most environmentalists remain constitutionally averse to nuclear power, for reasons that Brand has described as “quasi-religious.”

### 4. Nuclear power is “unnatural.”

From Godzilla to Blinky the three-eyed fish on “The Simpsons,” many of pop culture’s oddest creatures owe their existence to the mutating powers of radiation. It’s easy to forget that radiation and nuclear processes are pervasive in the natural world. President Harry S. Truman put it memorably when he presided over the keel-laying of the USS Nautilus, the world’s first nuclear-powered ship, in 1952: “Her engines will not burn oil or coal. The heat in her boilers will be created by the same force that heats the sun—the energy released by atomic fission, the breaking apart of the basic matter of the universe.” Cosmic rays bombard us constantly, and radioactive isotopes of common elements are an unavoidable—and benign—part of our food supply. Uranium, the primary fuel in most nuclear

### By TODD TUCKER

Special to The Washington Post

Todd Tucker is the author of *Atomic America: How a Deadly Explosion and a Feared Admiral Changed the Course of Nuclear History*. ssbn731g@yahoo.com



reactors, is a natural substance found all over the globe, roughly as plentiful as tin.

### 5. A nuclear power plant is similar to a nuclear bomb.

Not really. Nuclear power plants use fission—the splitting of uranium atoms to release enormous energy—to create power. Modern nuclear weapons use nuclear fusion: the fusing together of hydrogen atoms to release even greater amounts of energy. It’s true that early nuclear weapons, such as the one dropped on Hiroshima, were fission weapons that used uranium as fuel, but scientists had to overcome incredible technical challenges to get the fuel to compress long enough to reach a “critical mass” that would release explosive levels of energy. A nuclear power plant is a radically different machine, designed with great care to convert nuclear fission into steady power over a period of years. You couldn’t turn a nuclear reactor into a bomb any more easily than you could power your house with a hand grenade.

There is one important link between nuclear power and nuclear weapons: Uranium-fueled reactors produce plutonium, a key ingredient in the construction of nuclear bombs. This is why the United States is justifiably concerned about any nations that are building or attempting to build nuclear power plants.






Nuclear power certainly isn’t without hazards, and the industry does itself a disservice by proclaiming that it can construct a reactor that is “inherently safe,” implying a condition in which nothing bad can ever happen. That’s not possible in any manmade creation. It’s also easily disproven the instant something bad does happen—as it did at Three Mile Island. All methods of power generation involve trade-offs, a balancing of risks against returns. We shouldn’t evaluate nuclear power any differently.



Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

# The Weather

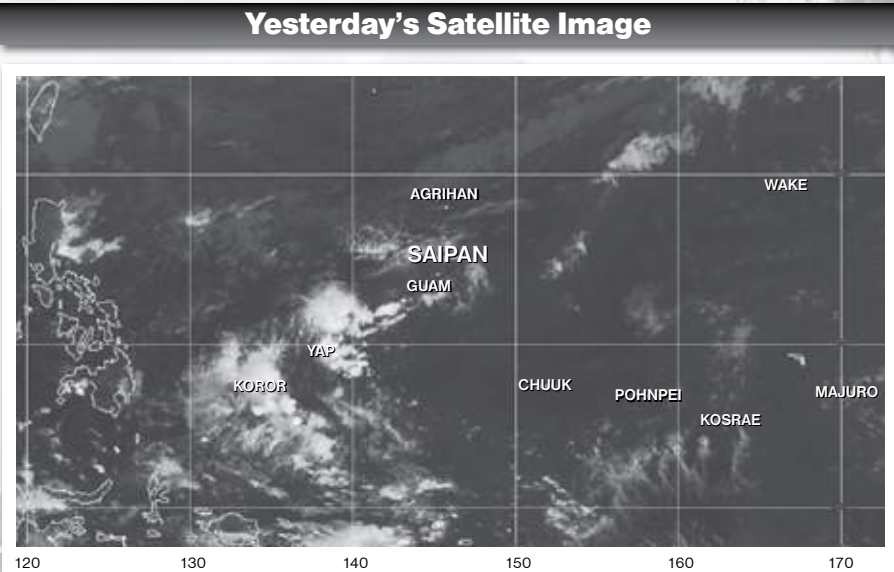
## 5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°

Micronesia		
Guam and Rota	Sunny	▲85 ▼74
Palau	Rain	▲86 ▼77
Yap	Showers	▲87 ▼77
Chuuk	Sunny	▲89 ▼80
Pohnpei	Mostly Sunny	▲85 ▼74
Kosrae	Showers	▲85 ▼76
Majuro	Mostly Sunny	▲84 ▼76

Around The Globe		
Auckland	Mostly Cloudy	▲71 ▼58
Beijing	Sunny	▲47 ▼34
Hong Kong	Partly Sunny	▲82 ▼70
Honolulu	Cloudy	▲77 ▼69
London	Showers	▲50 ▼34
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲76 ▼52
Manila	Mostly Sunny	▲86 ▼75
Melbourne	Sunny	▲78 ▼62
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲86 ▼72
New York	Mostly Cloudy	▲53 ▼43
Osaka	Cloudy	▲49 ▼39
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	▲48 ▼34
Pusan	Cloudy	▲59 ▼39
Rome	Mostly Cloudy	▲64 ▼58
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	▲57 ▼39
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲67 ▼49
Seoul	Partly Sunny	▲52 ▼28
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	▲53 ▼40
Washington, DC	Cloudy	▲59 ▼48

Tides		
Saipan Harbor		
2:41 AM Today	Low Tide:	0.6 Feet
8:19 AM Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
3:03 PM Today	Low Tide:	0.0 Feet
9:24 PM Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet



**PICTURE TIME: 1:00AM, FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 2009**  
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front enters the discussion area near Minamitori Shima at 25N155E and extends southwestward to 20N153E then continues as a shear line to just north of Saipan at 16N146E to end northwest of Yap at 11N135E. Cloudiness with patchy rain and a few thunderstorms are found along and up to 200 miles northwest of the cold front. A near-equatorial trough runs eastward from south of Mindanao to 3N130E through a weak circulation centered southeast of Koror at 4N136E to another circulation centered south of Guam at 6N144E and then turns southeastward to end at EQ155E aided by favorable winds aloft. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring along the trough axis over Koror but south of Yap or south of a line from 8N130E to 7N150E. A low-level trough reaches north-northeastward from the circulation south of Guam to 15N148E. Interacting with the shear line near Saipan and Yap. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are seen over three areas. The first area is just north of Yap within 60 miles of 11N138E. The second one is over Guam, Rota, Tinian and Saipan within 75 miles of a line from 13N144E to 15N150E. The third one is east of the CNMI within 75 miles of a line from 16N152E to 20N155E. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers north of Kwajalein between 10N and 14N from 158E to 170E and southeast of Wake Island between 14N and 19N from 172E to 180. A trade-wind disturbance is causing scattered showers just east of Majuro between 3N and 9N from 172E to 180.

Sunrise/Sunset			Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	6:16 AM	6:29 PM	Today	6:57 AM	7:54 PM
Sunday	6:15 AM	6:29 PM	Sunday	7:41 AM	8:54 PM
Monday	6:14 AM	6:29 PM	Monday	8:31 AM	9:56 PM
Tuesday	6:13 AM	6:29 PM	Tuesday	9:26 AM	10:59 PM
Wednesday	6:13 AM	6:29 PM	Wednesday	10:26 AM	

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- BUSINESS  
Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI  
Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
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Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

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Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 12, 2009					
DEPARTURES			ARRIVALS		
<b>Saipan-Rota</b>			<b>Rota-Saipan</b>		
CO9597	11:50am	12:25pm 1,7	CO 9598	3:25am	4:00am 5,6
<b>Saipan-Guam</b>			<b>Guam-Saipan</b>		
CO9317	5:00am	5:50am Daily	CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am 1,2,3,4,7
CO9313	8:30am	9:20am Daily	CO9598	2:30am	4:00am 5,6 via Rota
CO9597	11:50am	1:20pm 1,7 via Rota	CO9596	7:00am	7:50am Daily
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm 2,3,4,5,6	CO9600	10:20am	11:10am Daily
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm Daily	CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm Daily	CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm Daily	CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm Daily
<b>Saipan-Narita</b>			<b>Narita-Saipan</b>		
NW 099	5:00am	7:35am Daily	NW 076	10:15am	2:40pm Daily
NW 078	8:20am	1:30pm 2,3,4,5,6,7	NW 077	6:25pm	1:20am+1 2,3,4,5,6,7
NW 075	4:55pm	7:30pm Daily	NW 100	8:45pm	1:10am+1 Daily
<b>Guam-Narita</b>			<b>Narita-Guam</b>		
NW 73	4:10pm	7:00pm Daily	NW 74	9:45am	2:20pm Daily
NW 81	3:55pm	6:55pm Daily	NW 82	10:30am	3:10pm Daily
<b>Saipan-Osaka</b>			<b>Osaka-Saipan</b>		
OZ 119	4:00am	6:40am 1,4,6	OZ 120	9:50pm	2:20am+1 3,5,7
<b>Guam-Osaka</b>			<b>Osaka-Guam</b>		
NW 79	4:45pm	7:35pm Daily	NW 80	10:30am	3:00pm Daily
<b>Saipan-Nagoya</b>			<b>Nagoya-Saipan</b>		
NW 078	8:20am	11:05am Daily	NW 077	9:00pm	1:20am+1 Daily
<b>Guam-Nagoya</b>			<b>Nagoya-Guam</b>		
NW 23	4:30pm	7:20pm Daily	NW 24	10:00am	2:30pm Daily
<b>Saipan-Incheon</b>			<b>Incheon-Saipan</b>		
OZ 604	2:10am	6:00am 1	OZ 605	9:00am	2:20pm Daily
OZ 604	2:40am	6:30am 2,3,4,5,6,7	OZ 603	7:40pm	1:00am+1 7
OZ 119	4:00am	11:25am 1,4,6 via Osaka	OZ 120	7:10pm	2:20am+1 3,5,7
OZ 606	3:20pm	7:00pm Daily	OZ 603	8:10pm	1:30am+1 1,2,3,4,5,6
<b>Saipan-Busan</b>			<b>Busan-Saipan</b>		
OZ 608	3:20am	6:50am 1,4,5,7	OZ 607	9:00pm	2:10am+1 3,4,6,7
<b>Saipan-Shanghai</b>			<b>Shanghai-Saipan</b>		
FM 844	2:50am	5:40am 2,6	FM 843	7:15pm	1:50am+1 1,5
<b>Rota-Guam</b>			<b>Guam-Rota</b>		
CO 9597	12:50pm	1:20pm 1,7	CO 9598	2:30am	3:00am 5,6
<b>Guam-Palau</b>			<b>Palau-Guam</b>		
CO 953	7:40pm	8:40pm 1,7	CO 954	2:30am	5:25am 1,2
CO 893	5:50pm	6:50pm 3,5	CO 892	2:35am	5:30am 4,6
<b>Palau-Manila</b>			<b>Manila-Palau</b>		
CO 893	7:35pm	9:10pm 3,5	CO 892	10:10pm	1:50am+1 3,5
<b>Guam-Manila</b>			<b>Manila-Guam</b>		
CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm 3,5 via Koror	CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1 3,5 via Koror
CO 933	8:00pm	9:40pm Daily	CO 934	11:10pm	4:05am+1 Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:50am 1,2,4,6,7	PR 110	10:10pm	4:00am+1 1,3,5,6,7
<b>Nagoya-Manila</b>			<b>Manila-Nagoya</b>		
NW 71	8:40pm	11:55pm Daily	NW 72	6:30am	11:05am Daily
<b>Incheon-Hongkong</b>			<b>Hongkong-Incheon</b>		
OZ 721	9:20am	12:00pm Daily	OZ 724	12:30am	4:50am Daily
OZ 723	7:45pm	10:35pm Daily	OZ 7183	12:45am	4:05am 1,4,6
OZ 7173	8:00pm	10:50pm 5,7	OZ 722	1:30pm	5:45pm Daily
<b>Narita-Manila</b>			<b>Manila-Narita</b>		
NW 1	7:00pm	10:55pm Daily	NW 2	7:45am	12:40pm Daily

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana  
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

## FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
<b>Guam-Rota</b>				FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily	FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
<b>Rota-Saipan</b>				FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily	FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
<b>Saipan-Rota</b>				FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily	FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
<b>Rota-Guam</b>				FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily	<b>Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**</b>			
<b>Guam-Rota</b>				FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily	FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
<b>Rota-Saipan</b>				FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily	FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
<b>Saipan-Rota</b>				FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily	FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
<b>Rota-Guam</b>				FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily	FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
<b>Saipan-Tinian</b>				FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily	FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily	FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily	FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily	FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily				
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily				



## NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- \*11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at [www.nmicrimestoppers.com](http://www.nmicrimestoppers.com)

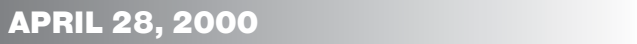


Schedule of Religious Services														
CATHOLIC														
<b>Mt. Carmel Cathedral</b> Sunday Mass: 6am, 9am, 11am and 6pm Monday-Saturday: 6am Wednesday: 6am and 6pm														
<b>Korean Center</b> Sunday: 10:30am Wednesday: 10am Thursday-Friday: 8pm Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm														
<b>Kristo Rai Parish</b> Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am Monday- Saturday: 6am Wednesday: 6am and 6pm Saturday: 6am and 6pm														
<b>Nuestra Senora De Soledad Parish</b> Wednesday Mass: 6pm First Friday Healing Mass: 6pm Saturday Mass: 6pm Sunday Masses: 7:30am & 9am														
<b>Saint Jude Parish</b> Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am Wednesday and Thursday: 6pm														
<b>San Antonio Parish</b> Sunday: 6am and 8am Tuesday and Friday: 6pm														
<b>San Francisco de Borja-Rota</b> Sunday: 6am and 8am Monday-Saturday: 6am Wednesday: 6pm														
<b>San Isidro-Rota</b> Sunday: 5am and 10am Monday-Wednesday: 7pm Thursday-Saturday: 5am and 7pm														
<b>San Jose (Oleai) Parish</b> Sunday: 6am and 7:30am Tuesday-Wednesday and Friday-Saturday: 6pm														
<b>San Roque Parish</b> Sunday: 9am Wednesday: 6pm Saturday: 10:30am														
<b>San Vicente Parish</b> Sunday: 6am, 9am and 6pm Monday-Saturday: 6pm														
<b>Santa Remedios</b> Sunday: 7:30am Tuesday: 6pm Saturday: 10am-Baptism														
<b>Santa Soledad</b> Sunday: 7:30am														
PROTESTANT														
<b>Born Again Christian (Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan</b> Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8-10:30pm Saturday Tagalog Service: 8-10:30pm Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am Sunday School for Children: 10-11am Sunday Filipino Service: 7-9pm														
<b>Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan</b> Sunday School: 9am Sunday Morning Worship: 10am Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm														
<b>Chinese Christian Church of Saipan</b> Worship Services: Sunday, 10am and 7:30pm Bible Study: Tuesday-Friday, 9:25pm														
<b>Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan</b> Worship/Study Opportunities Adult Sunday School: 9am Youth Sunday School: 9am English Worship Service Sunday: 10am Sunday Service: 5:30pm Worship/Fellowship Sunday: 9:30pm Evangelism/Follow-up: Sunday/Monday: 1:30/7:30pm Worship Team: Monday/Saturday-9pm; Cell Groups Tuesday: 7:30pm Mid-week Service: 7:30pm Prayer Meeting Wednesday: 7:30pm Leader's Bible Study Friday: 7:30 pm Cornerstone School of Ministry Saturday: 7:30pm														
<b>Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan</b> St. Paul's Episcopal Church Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 9:00am Place: Vicarage, Chalan Lallau, Call 235-0545 for directions														
<b>Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan</b> Worship Service: 9am GBI Classes: 4-6pm Prayer Meeting: Monday-Saturday: 6am Sunday: 7am Home Cell Bible Study: Wednesday-Friday: 7pm Youth Service: Friday: 5:30pm														
<b>Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan</b> Wednesday: 7:45pm (Tagalog) Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm (English) Saturday: 7:45pm (Tagalog) Sunday: 6:45am (English) Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)														
<b>Immanuel United Methodist Church Koblerville</b> Sunday Services 9:00 AM Place of the church-next to Mt. Carmel Cathedral on Chalan Kanoa Dr. • Tel: 322-6158 Pastor JJ Matsumoto														
<b>Immanuel Methodist Church (Filipino Congregation)</b> Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal 8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog)														
9:15am-Sunday School Wednesday: 6:30pm, home group 8:00pm-Prayer Meeting Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church) Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice (Parsonage)														
<b>Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan</b> English Service: 9-11am, Sunday Tagalog Service: 6-8pm, Sunday														
<b>Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan</b> Sunday School: 8:20am Sunday Adult: 10am Sunday Adult: 11:30am Sunday Evening: 7:30pm Wednesday: 8pm														
<b>Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan</b> Sunday Worship Service: 10am-12noon Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm Tel. No. 235-LIFE (5433)														
<b>Marianas Baptist Church, Saipan</b> English Worship Service: 9-10:30am Evening Worship Service: 6-7pm Children Sunday School: 9-10:30am Tagalog Sunday School: 11am-12pm English Sunday School: 11am-12pm Korean Worship Service: 11am-12pm Wednesday Prayer Meeting: English, 7pm-8pm Korean: 8:30pm-9:30pm														
<b>Missions Connection Ministry</b> Every Sunday Celebrations: 10am (English), 6pm (Tagalog) Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm Youth Impact Friday: 7pm Saturday Prayer Meeting: 7pm														
<b>Northern Marianas Christian Church</b> Sunday Worship Service 10am Fina Sisu Housing FS#1 (Child care will be provided) Friday Services @ 7pm Fina Sisu FS#1 for more info pls. contact Ryan 484-2620														
<b>Saipan Bible Fellowship Church</b> Sunday School: 9:30-10am Divine Worship: 10am-11:30am Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm														
<b>Saipan Christian Church</b> Sunday: 7:30am-10am Sunday: 6:30 pm -9pm Monday: 8 pm -10pm (Prayer Meeting) Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)														
<b>Saipan Church of Christ</b> Sunday Bible Class: 9am Sunday Worship: 10am Sunday Worship English: 6pm Sunday Worship Tagalog: 7pm Wednesday Bible Study: 7:30pm														
<b>Saipan Community Church (Sunday Services)</b> Palau Service: 7:30am-9am English Service: 10am-11:30am Chuukese Service: 1pm-2:30pm Filipino Service: 5:00pm-7:00pm														
<b>Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Saipan (Saturday Church Services)</b> Sabbath School Program: 9-10am Lesson Study: 10-10:40am Divine Service: 11-12pm Visitation: 3-4pm Adventist Youth Program: 4:30-5:30pm Sundown Worship: 6-7pm														
<b>First Baptist Church (Formerly Saipan Baptist Church)</b> Afetna St., San Antonio Sunday <table><tr><td></td><td>9am</td><td>Sunday school</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>10am</td><td>Regular worship</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>6pm</td><td>worship</td></tr><tr><td>Wednesday</td><td>7pm</td><td>worship</td></tr></table> Everyone is warmly welcome to attend our worship services. Transportation is readily available to anyone who needs a ride to our church. For further information, please call Pastor David M. Mclure at 234-1939/235-7779.				9am	Sunday school		10am	Regular worship		6pm	worship	Wednesday	7pm	worship
	9am	Sunday school												
	10am	Regular worship												
	6pm	worship												
Wednesday	7pm	worship												
<b>Thy Word Ministries Saipan Faith Center</b> Phone 234-0209 New Christian Charismatic Church Service located in Chalan Paio, Beach Road in the Sablan building on the 2nd floor above Subway Sandwiches. Senior Pastors: George & Gail Kamakahi Asst. Pastors: Eric & Penny Sakaguchi Service Times Sunday 10:00am Worship Service Sunday 7pm Discipleship Classes Tuesday 10:00am Bible Studies Tuesday 6:00pm Intercessory Prayer Tuesday 7:00pm Music Practice Wednesday 7:00pm Mid-Week Service Saturday 10:00am Evangelism														
<b>Upper Room International Ministries</b> Sunday 5:30 am-6:30 am Morning prayer <table><tr><td>7am-9am</td><td>English service</td></tr><tr><td>7am-9am</td><td>Sunday school</td></tr><tr><td>10am-12noon</td><td>English service,</td></tr></table> Koblerville Wednesday 7pm-9pm Prayer meeting Saturday 7pm-9pm Tagalog service Venue: Jason Presbyterian Church Gualo Rai, Saipan			7am-9am	English service	7am-9am	Sunday school	10am-12noon	English service,						
7am-9am	English service													
7am-9am	Sunday school													
10am-12noon	English service,													
<b>Victory Chapel Christian Fellowship Church</b> Sunday School: 9:30am Sunday AM Worship:10:30am Sunday PM Worship:7:00am Wed Worship: 7:30pm Prayer 45 min. Prior to Service Times Morning Prayer: 6-8am M-S														



**Legislators to cut retirement perks**  
In yet another casualty of the continuous financial difficulties besetting the Commonwealth, the Legislature is expected to pass measures that would eliminate some retirement benefits for future civil service employees in a bid to reduce the government’s monthly contributions to the Retirement Fund. Lawmakers stressed, however, the removal of the benefits will only affect new employees who will join the government work force after the proposal becomes law. The move comes on the heels of government’s failure since last year to remit its share of the retirement contributions for its nearly 5,000 employees due to the serious cash-flow problems facing the Tenorio administration.

**Govt settles portion of unpaid dues to Fund**  
In a move to ease worries of retirees over potential delay in their monthly pension, the government yesterday settled portion of its back contributions to the Northern Marianas Island Retirement Fund and promised to settle the rest under a payment plan. Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio, along with his finance managers, met with Retirement Fund officials and key members of the Legislature to draw up a plan that would reduce the government’s obligation amounting to \$21 million. In the meeting, NMIRF received a check worth over \$200,000 representing partial payment for the CNMI government’s unpaid contribution, which the administration has failed to settle due to financial woes.



**CPA seeks OIA support on protest vs Continental**  
The Commonwealth Ports Authority is bringing its protest against Continental Micronesia’s treatment of Guam and Saipan as co-terminals at a higher gear as it seeks backing by the Office of the Insular Affairs. In a letter to Insular Affairs Director Danny Aranza, CPA Board Chair Roman S. Palacios said the Northern Marianas suffered tremendous economic losses due to Continental Micronesia’s decision to abandon direct flights between Saipan and two Japanese cities. At the same time, Ports Authority Executive Director Carlos H. Salas underscored the agency’s opposition on the application of the carrier to renew its authority to operate on Route 171, Segment 9, or between Saipan/Guam and Sapporo/Sendai, Japan.

**Cost of education per student drops**  
The Public School System currently spends less than \$4,000 to send one child to school, Education Commissioner Rita H. Inos recently disclosed, noting a decline in the education cost per student in the last three years. According to Dr. Inos, this has been due to certain adjustments PSS has had to contend with based on availability of funds. In School Year 1996-97, PSS spent some \$4,629 for each student with over 9,954 students to subsidize. The following school year, PSS student enrollment recorded some 9, 246 where average cost per child lowered to \$4,500.



**Power bill aid for Saipan residents**  
Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela yesterday announced the availability of funds under the Mayor’s Utility Assistance Program to help qualified residents pay for one month of their overdue power bill. This is a federally funded program available to Saipan residents who are unable to bring their power account current with the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation. Applications can be picked up at the Saipan Mayor’s Office at Afetnas Square in San Antonio beginning Thursday, May 1, 2003. For more information, call 234-6208 or 234-6280 and ask for John Cruz.

**Feds agree to earlier release of grants to NMC**  
The U.S. Department of Education has agreed to release the financial aid money allotted for the Northern Marianas College a little earlier than was scheduled amid sanctions stemming from the college’s failure to submit timely audit reports. NMC financial and administrative services director David Atalig said he recently met with federal authorities to plead for the lifting of the sanction imposed on the college this year, but they objected to it. Instead, Atalig said, the federal agency agreed to release refund money for NMC students a little earlier. The NMC received the Pell Grant financial aid only now, or several weeks away from the spring enrolment last January. Some 530 NMC students are expected to claim the money beginning today.

# Business

## Financial overhaul plan draws GOP opposition

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Obama administration’s aggressive plan for strict scrutiny of hedge funds and other free-wheeling investors, part of the biggest expansion of financial restraints since the Great Depression, is drawing instant opposition from Republican lawmakers and the rules’ targets. And skeptics are questioning whether the new rulebook would work anyway. Wall Street wizards have proved adept at designing complex financial products to sidestep existing regulations. And Vincent Reinhart, former director of monetary affairs at the Federal Reserve, says, “You’re going to see firms try to figure out how to be under the radar.” For example, private equity investors might try to buy large hedge funds and chop them into funds that would be small enough to operate unregulated, Reinhart said. Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner, unveiling the plan Thursday, said the nation’s economic crisis demands bold action. “We need much stronger standards for openness, transparency and plain commonsense language throughout the financial system,” he told the House Financial Services Committee. The administration’s proposals, which require congressional approval, include: ■ Imposing tougher standards on financial institutions that are judged to be so big that their failure would threaten the entire system. ■ Extending federal regulation for the first time to all trading in financial derivatives—exotic instruments such as credit default swaps that are blamed for much of the economic carnage. ■ Requiring larger hedge funds and other private pools of capital, including private equity and venture capital funds, to register with the Securities and Exchange Commission. ■ Creating a regulator to monitor the biggest institutions. Geithner did not say which agency should wield such authority, but the administration is expected to favor the Federal Reserve. ■ Empowering the government to take over major non-bank financial firms such as insurers and hedge funds if deemed necessary. Committee Chairman Barney Frank, D-Mass., and many Democrats on the panel backed the proposals, while Republicans assailed them as too far-reaching. Private analysts also questioned whether Geithner’s plan would succeed in safeguarding the financial system.

## Top bank regulator placed on leave pending review

WASHINGTON (AP)—A top bank regulator has been placed on leave pending a Treasury Department investigation into regulators’ approval of backdated cash infusions for troubled thrifts. The Office of Thrift Supervision said Thursday that its acting director, Scott Polakoff, was placed on leave “pending a review by the Department of the Treasury of the OTS’ August 2008 actions related to post-period capital contributions.” Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner named OTS Chief Counsel John Bowman to replace Polakoff as acting director, the agency said. The OTS gave no further details on the Treasury Department’s review and how it might relate to Polakoff. Polakoff, who is the agency’s chief operating officer, had held the acting-director position only since last month following the resignation of OTS Director John Reich. Agency spokesmen and Polakoff could not be reached for comment late Thursday. Late last year it was revealed the OTS had approved in May a backdated infusion of \$18 million for IndyMac Bancorp to March 31, allowing it to meet first-quarter government requirements for reserves held against possible losses. Pasadena, Calif.-based IndyMac failed in July and cost the federal insurance fund for banks nearly \$9 billion. The OTS removed Darrel Dochow, the agency’s official in charge of the Western region, from that position and he later resigned from the agency. Treasury Department Inspector General Eric Thorson wrote in a letter to members of Congress that the OTS had also allowed other thrifts to record capital infusions in an earlier period than when they were received. Thrifts have been the most troubled regulated institutions during the financial crisis and among the most spectacular failures. By law, they must have at least 65 percent of their lending in mortgages and other consumer loans—making them particularly vulnerable to the housing downturn. Seattle-based thrift Washington Mutual was the largest bank to collapse in U.S. history, with around \$307 billion in assets. It was later acquired by JPMorgan Chase & Co. for \$1.9 billion.



# Nation

## Alaska volcano erupts twice, sends ash 12 miles up

**ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP)**—Alaska's Mount Redoubt erupted several times Thursday, spewing a more than 12-mile-high cloud that could drop ash on Anchorage for the first time since the volcano began erupting Sunday night.

The Alaska Volcano Observatory said the first eruption about 8:30 a.m. shot an ash cloud about 30,000 feet in the air, and a second eruption about an hour later sent ash 65,000 feet high—the highest cloud since the eruptions began. Several smaller eruptions followed, with none of their plumes surpassing 20,000 feet.

The largest eruption caused a mud flow into the Drift River near the base of the volcano.

Before Thursday's eruptions the volcano had been relatively quiet for more than a day.

According to the National Weather Service, prevailing winds are expected to carry ash from the larger eruption east across Cook Inlet toward some of Alaska's larger communities. An ash fall advisory for the western Kenai Peninsula covers the towns of Kenai, Soldotna and Cooper Landing.

Anchorage spokeswoman Jenny Evans said the state's largest city, roughly 100 miles northeast of the volcano, could see trace amounts of ash. Alaska Airlines canceled all flights to and from Anchorage until sunrise Friday, and all planes at Elmendorf Air Force Base in Anchorage were either placed in shelters or moved to other bases. Ash poses a significant threat to aircraft engines.

Minor amounts of ash were expected to fall on Homer, a tourist and fishing town at the southern tip of the Kenai Peninsula.

The National Weather Service also issued a flash flood warning for the Drift River, near the volcano. Eruption



Ash from Mount Redoubt blankets the snow drifts against an old fishing boat and the town of Ninilchik, Alaska, Thursday, March 26, 2009.

## Cracks in levee force evacuations in Fargo, ND

**FARGO, N.D. (AP)**—Officials ordered the evacuation of one neighborhood and a nursing home late Thursday after authorities found cracks in an earthen levee built to protect the area from the threat of the rising Red River.

Residents were not in immediate danger, and floodwaters was not flowing over the levee, Mayor Dennis Walaker said Thursday night. The evacuation was being enforced as a precaution.

Officers were going door to door to the roughly 40 homes in the River Vili neighborhood and were evacuating Riverview Estates nursing home. Authorities also called for the voluntary evacuation of about 1,000 people who live between the

main dikes and backups in various parts of the city. That evacuation could become mandatory, officials said.

Authorities across the river in Moorhead, Minn., also stepped up evacuations Thursday. They recommended that residents leave the southwest corner of the city and a low-lying township to the north.

Fargo residents have been scrambling in subfreezing temperatures to pile sandbags along the Red River. They spent much of Thursday preparing for a record crest of 41 feet—only to have forecasters add up to 2 feet to their estimate.

The first estimate sparked urgency

among thousands of volunteers in Fargo, but the second sparked doubts about whether a 43-foot-high wall of water could be stopped. In Moorhead, City Manager Michael Redlinger said portions of his city's dike could not be easily raised to withstand a 42-foot crest.

"Now everything's up in the air," he said.

The old estimate was 41 feet by Saturday afternoon, and thousands of volunteers had labored throughout the day to raise the dikes around North Dakota's largest city to 43 feet. City and emergency officials had said they were confident the city would make it, but will now have to build higher.

tions can cause snow and ice to melt on the mountain, resulting in flooding along the river that drains from the mountain.

Research geologists with the U.S. Geological Survey have said a lot of snow and ice remains on the mountain, increasing the danger from mud flows that already have downed hundreds of trees and carved a huge gouge out of a glacier.

The mud flows also have littered the airport at the Drift River Termi-

nal, a Chevron-operated facility that has been shut down but still has 6.2 million gallons of crude stored in two tanks. Until the airport runway is cleared, it is unusable.

Eleven employees were evacuated from the terminal Monday. An attempt to reach the terminal by helicopter on Wednesday was unsuccessful, but previous flights indicated that the oil storage tanks were not damaged and surrounding berms and dikes to contain any spilled oil were also OK.

## Key Senate panel backs Obama's budget blueprint

**WASHINGTON (AP)**—A key Senate panel stacked with allies of President Barack Obama approved his ambitious budget blueprint Thursday, giving the president a symbolic endorsement of efforts to boost clean energy, fight global warming and improve access to health care.

Senate Budget Committee approval by a party-line vote sets the stage for floor debate next week, where moderate Democrats unhappy with deficits wield more influence. The Senate measure is a nonbinding road map for major legislation later this year on health care, energy and education.

But general agreements on fighting global warming and boosting health care promise to be severely tested later in the year as details are penciled in.

The Senate plan and its House counterpart will both go to the floors of their respective chambers next week over passionate protests from Republicans, who warn of big spend-

ing increases and record deficits.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., armed with a comfortable 58-41 Senate majority, said a handful of Democrats will oppose the budget plan next week but that "I feel very comfortable that we're going to be able to pass the budget."

Unlike regular legislation, the annual budget resolution—which doesn't get signed by the president—can advance with a simple majority vote.

House Majority Whip James Clyburn, D-S.C. expressed confidence that the House plan would pass in that chamber. "It's looking good," he said.

Both the House and Senate budget plans lack specifics for any of the administration's signature proposals on global warming and clean energy or even clues on how Democrats plan to accomplish goals like raising more than \$1 trillion over the next decade to provide universal health coverage.

## 28 injured as tornados rip through southern Miss.

**MAGEE, Miss. (AP)**—Residents in a tornado-ravaged community took advantage of clearing skies Thursday to collect family keepsakes and begin cleaning up from a storm that left 28 injured and dozens of homes and businesses flattened across south-central Mississippi.

But Magee, a town of about 5,000 in Mississippi's pine forests, may not have much time to begin serious cleanup as another storm system with the potential for more destruction was expected late Thursday or early Friday.

While families were busy moving debris from around homes and covering exposed ceilings, the steady grinding of chain saws echoed through the community as utility crews cleared fallen trees from power lines.

Magee Mayor Jimmy Clyde said the community was in the early stages of assessing the destruction from a pre-dawn twister that smashed through dozens of homes and apartment duplexes and damaged two churches.

"This is like reliving Hurricane Katrina all over again and that's no fun," Clyde said as office phones rang constantly with reports of storm-damaged neighborhoods and lost power and water service. "We got hit back then and we've really been hit now."

Officials believe 36 homes, a church and a business were destroyed in Simpson County, where Magee is located, and another 86 homes and structures were damaged. Across the state, 43 structures were destroyed and another 146 were damaged by at least five confirmed tornados.



### ACROSS THE NATION

#### 2 more octuplets go home; 12 kids in Suleman home

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—Two more of the world's longest surviving octuplets went home Thursday night, and Nadya Suleman's spacious four-bedroom home is quickly filling up. Twelve children are now in Suleman's care after Makai and Jeremiah were released from Kaiser Permanente Bellflower Medical Center, exactly two months after their historic births. Two babies remain in the hospital. "Over these past several weeks we have seen these little ones flourish, grow stronger each day, which is rewarding

for each of us who have cared for them," said Dr. Mandhir Gupta, a neonatologist at Kaiser. The babies were born nine weeks premature on Jan. 26, weighing between 1 pound, 8 ounces, and 3 pounds, 4 ounces. Makai and Jeremiah, like their infant siblings at home, now each weigh more than 5 pounds.

#### Dallas officer delayed NFL player as relative died

**DALLAS (AP)**—A police officer was placed on administrative leave Thursday over a traffic stop involving an NFL player whom he kept in a hospi-

tal parking lot and threatened to arrest while his mother-in-law died inside the building. Officer Robert Powell also drew his gun during the March 18 incident involving Houston Texans running back Ryan Moats in the Dallas suburb of Plano, police said. "I can screw you over," he said at one point in the videotaped incident. When another officer came with word that Moats' mother-in-law was indeed dying, Powell's response was: "All right. I'm almost done." Dallas Police Chief David Kunkle apologized to the family and announced that Powell

would be on paid leave pending an internal investigation.

#### Hundreds of Pa. juvenile convictions reversed

**ALLENTOWN, Pa. (AP)**—Pennsylvania's highest court on Thursday overturned hundreds of juvenile convictions issued by a corrupt judge who took millions of dollars in kickbacks from youth detention centers. The state Supreme Court ruled that former Luzerne County President Judge Mark Ciavarella violated the constitutional rights of youth offenders who appeared in his

courtroom without lawyers between 2003 and 2008. "Today's order is not intended to be a quick fix," Chief Justice Ronald Castille said in a statement. "It's going to take some time, but the Supreme Court is committed to righting whatever wrong was perpetrated on Luzerne's juveniles and their families." In one of the most egregious cases of judicial corruption ever seen, federal prosecutors charged Ciavarella and another Luzerne County judge, Michael Conahan, with taking \$2.6 million in payoffs to put juvenile offenders in privately owned lockups.



# World

## WORLD BRIEFS

**Thai PM rejects calls for his resignation**  
**BANGKOK (AP)**—The Thai prime minister rejected calls for his resignation by thousands of anti-government protesters who ringed his office for a second day Friday in a boisterous rally. Supporters of deposed former leader Thaksin Shinawatra have surrounded the government’s main office since Thursday. The demonstrators say Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva’s government came to power three months ago through illegal means and are demanding a dissolution of Parliament and fresh elections. Police estimated about 30,000 people gathered outside Government House on Thursday evening. About 3,000 demonstrators remained on the streets around the seat of government Friday as leaders took to the stage to denounce the government in the midday heat.

**US, Afghan troops kill 11 militants in south**  
**KABUL (AP)**—International and Afghan troops killed 11 militants when a raid in Afghanistan’s volatile south turned into a gunbattle with Taliban fighters, U.S. forces said Friday. Fighting broke out during the Thursday night raid targeting a key Taliban insurgent in a village in Helmand province, the military said in a statement. The forces came under fire from militants inside a compound as they advanced and returned fire. The U.S. military said the insurgent targeted in the attack was involved in making bombs that were used for roadside attacks in northern Helmand province. One insurgent was captured and 11 killed in the fighting in Lashkar Gar district, west of the provincial capital of Kandahar. The statement said one militant tried to use women and children in the compound as human shields, but the force managed to shoot the man without harming the civilians.

**Australia says Web blacklist combats child porn**  
**CANBERRA, Australia (AP)**—Australia’s communications minister has defended a proposed Internet blacklist as necessary to combat child pornography but admitted that at least one site had been wrongly blocked during trials. Stephen Conroy also told Australian Broadcasting Corporation television on Thursday night that the blacklist was not censorship of the type practiced by China or Saudi Arabia. “It is possible to support a blacklist and support free speech,” Conroy said. He did not explain how. His comments came a week after a whistle-blower organization published a list of 2,400 sites that it said were on the government’s secret blacklist, including a dentist’s office, poker sites and a PG-rated site displaying images by a controversial Australian photographer. Conroy said the dentist’s site had been hacked and child pornography photos were posted. The office confirmed last week it had been hacked more than a year ago, and visitors were temporarily redirected to an adult Web site. The office said it quickly switched to a different Internet provider and hasn’t had a problem since.

# Somali pirates hijack 2 tankers in 24 hours

**BRUSSELS (AP)**—Pirates armed with machine guns hijacked a Norwegian chemical tanker Thursday off the coast of Somalia, the ship’s owner said, an attack that came less than 24 hours after a smaller Greek-owned vessel was seized in the same area.

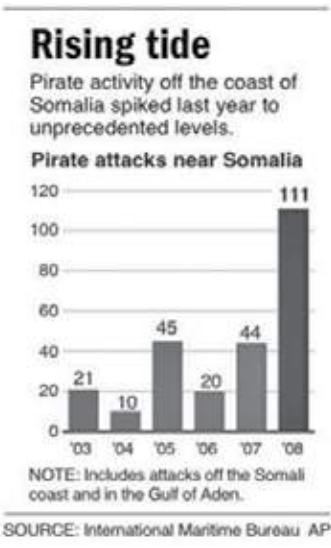
The U.S. 5th Fleet, which patrols the pirate-infested Gulf of Aden, confirmed both hijackings and said they took place in the same area but separate from the gulf, one of the world’s busiest—and now most treacherous—sea lanes.

The 23,000-ton Norwegian-owned Bow Asir was captured 250 miles (400 kilometers) off the Somali coast on Thursday morning, and the 9,000-ton Greek-owned Nipayia, with 19 crew members, was seized 450 miles (720 kilometers) off Somalia on Wednesday afternoon, the European Union’s military spokesman said.

Both vessels are chemical tankers but their cargoes were not immediately made public.

Cmdr. Jane Campbell of the U.S. 5th fleet said both hijackings took place in a vast Indian Ocean expanse of over 750,000 square miles (1.9 million square kilometers).

“This activity highlights the complexity of even trying to monitor an area this size,” she said.



flagged boat Wednesday but the crew fought off them off by speeding away and using fire hoses.

Norway’s shipowners association said the Bow Asir had a crew of 27 with a Norwegian captain, but the 5th Fleet said there were 23 crew on board. Fleet spokesman Lt. Nate Christensen said the Norwegian ship was Bahamian-flagged.

A Nairobi-based diplomat said the Nipayia had 18 Filipinos on board and a Russian captain. He said the ship is managed by Athens-based Lotus Shipping, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the press.

# Japan OKs deployment of missile defense system

**TOKYO (AP)**—Japan’s defense minister ordered the military to prepare to shoot down any debris that could fall on Japanese territory if a North Korean rocket launch fails, mobilizing interceptor missiles and sending two warships to the Sea of Japan.

North Korea has said it will launch a communications satellite April 4-8, and has warned that fragments from the launch could fall into waters off Akita and Iwate prefectures (states) in northern Japan. In response, Defense Minister Yasukazu Hamada told reporters he ordered the deployment of land-to-air and sea-to-air missile interceptors to the area at risk.

“We issued a destruction order,” Hamada told reporters at parliament. “We will make sure to eliminate anything that may cause us any damage.”

North Korea has mounted a

rocket on a launch pad on its northeast coast, American intelligence officials say, putting Pyongyang well on track for a launch the U.S. and South Korea warned Thursday would be a major provocation with serious consequences.

Pyongyang says the rocket will carry a satellite, but regional powers suspect the North will use the launch to test the delivery technology for a long-

range missile capable of striking Alaska. They have said the launch—banned by the U.N. Security Council in 2006—would trigger sanctions.

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton warned such a “provocative act” could jeopardize the stalled talks on supplying North Korea with aid and other concessions in exchange for dismantling its nuclear program.

# Dam bursts near Indonesian capital, killing 50

**CIRENDEU, Indonesia (AP)**—Torrential rain caused a dam to burst early Friday, sending a wall of water crashing into a crowded neighborhood just outside Indonesia’s capital. The flood killed at least 50 people, left more than a dozen others missing and submerged hundreds of homes.

Rescuers, some using rubber rafts to reach victims, predicted the death toll would rise.

Health Ministry Crisis Center chief Rustam Pakaya said the dam—which was built decades ago, when the country was still under Dutch colonial rule—broke at around 2 a.m., while

most people were sleeping.

In some places, water levels were roof high.

A 9-year-old girl was found unconscious on top of one home after waters receded, but she died on the way to the hospital, said rescuer Toni Suhartono, adding that the girl’s parents and

sister were among the missing.

Elsewhere, bodies were seen floating amid chairs, clothing, sandals and other debris. Telephone lines were toppled and cars swept away, some parked in driveways and ending up in parks or intersections hundreds of feet (meters) away.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
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Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp

**NOTICE OF SALE**

**UNDER POWER OF SALE  
IN DEED OF TRUST**

JOHN ALAN C. KING AND CARLA MARIE DLC. KING (collectively “Trustor”), on or about November 08, 2002, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (“Trustee”), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office (“USDA”), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America (“FmHA”), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on December 12, 2003, under Document No. 03-2781 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

LOT NO. 330 R 321 CONTAINING AS AREA OF 838 SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS AS SHOWN ON THE DIVISION OF LANDS AND SURVEYS OFFICIAL CADASTRAL PLAT NO. 330 R 08 DATED NOVEMBER 19, 1996, COMMONWEALTH RECORDER’S FILE NO. 97-746, DATED APRIL 02, 1996, THE DESCRIPTION THEREIN BEING INCORPORATED HEREIN BY REFERENCE.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on December 02, 2008. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on April 17, 2009, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than \$33,230.00. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Merced M. Tomokane, Chairwoman of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than April 16, 2009, at 4:00 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than April 16, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier’s check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Dated this 16th day of March, 2009.

/S/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO  
Corporate Director, NMHC

NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
**NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION**  
Tel. (670) 234-6866, 234-9447, 234-7689, 234-7670 • Fax, (670) 234-9021  
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp

**NOTICE OF SALE**

**UNDER POWER OF SALE  
IN DEED OF TRUST**

REGINA T. CASTRO (“Trustor”), on or about October 23, 1984, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (“Trustee”), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office (“USDA”), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America (“FmHA”), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on October 23, 1984, under Document No. 84-2264 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

LOT NUMBER 005 B 09, CONTAINING AN AREA OF 407 SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS, AS MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED ON DRAWING/CADASTRAL PLAT NUMBER 005 B 00, THE ORIGINAL OF WHICH WAS REGISTERED WITH THE LAND REGISTRY AS DOCUMENT NUMBER 832, ON THE 9TH DAY OF JUNE, 1971.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on November 24, 2008. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on April 17, 2009, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than \$53,330.00. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Merced M. Tomokane, Chairwoman of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than April 16, 2009, at 4:00 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than April 16, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier’s check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Dated this 16th day of March, 2009.

/S/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO  
Corporate Director, NMHC

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Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp

**NOTICE OF SALE**

**UNDER POWER OF SALE  
IN DEED OF TRUST**

VINCENT N. ITAMAN/ ROSA L. TAMAN/ VINCENTE E. TAMAN (collectively “Trustor”), on or about April 27, 1984, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (“Trustee”), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office (“USDA”), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America (“FmHA”), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on April 27, 1984 under Document No. 84-659 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

LOT NUMBER 005 I 531, CONTAINING AN AREA OF 745 SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS, AS SHOWN ON THE DIVISION OF LANDS AND SURVEYS OFFICIAL CADASTRAL PLAT NUMBER 2084/82, THE ORIGINAL OF WHICH WAS REGISTERED WITH THE LAND REGISTRY AS DOCUMENT NUMBER 14232 DATED MAY 14, 1982, THE DESCRIPTION THEREIN BEING INCORPORATED HEREIN BY REFERENCE.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on December 10, 2008. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on April 17, 2009, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than \$32,530.00. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Merced M. Tomokane, Chairwoman of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than April 16, 2009, at 4:00 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than April 16, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier’s check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Dated this 16th day of March, 2009.

/S/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO  
Corporate Director, NMHC

NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency



# Maharlika

## PINOY LIFE IN THE MARIANAS

Saturday, March 28, 2009

### Bad economy stymies UFO programs, fundraising

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
haidee\_eugenio@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The economic turmoil has been impacting the programs and fundraising of Filipino groups in the CNMI, but the United Filipino Organization said it is during these troubling times that member-organizations should help one another more than ever and continue to give back to the community.

Olive Yana, the newly inducted president of UFO, the umbrella organization of 31 Filipino groups in the CNMI, said the tough economic times reduce the ability of member-organizations to raise funds for their projects.

The affected projects include building classrooms in underserved areas in the Philippines, funding the education of needy students back home, the holding of cultural activities in the CNMI, and helping those who are victims of disasters in the Philippines.

"It's now hard to raise funds and look for sponsors for programs and activities because of the economy," Yana told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

The Visayas-Mindanao Association, or Visminda, for example, used to donate \$200 to each member whose loved one passed away.

"This has stopped; there's no more automatic donation of \$200. We still help but not as much as before; it now depends on individual member's ability to help," said Yana, who is also the secretary of Visminda.

She said UFO's sponsorship of the annual Philippine Independence Day celebration, highlighted by the Pistang Pinoy or Filipino Festival, has to be scaled down due to lack of funds.

The annual celebration used



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Philippine labor attaché Joann Lourdes Lavilla, left, swears in the 2009 officers and board members of the United Filipino Organization at the Hafa Adai Beach Hotel in Garapan on March 15.

to be held at the Civic Center in Susupe but Yana said UFO had to pay \$500 for power consumption alone and another \$1,500 to \$2,000 to put up a stage.

"To save money, we decided to hold the Pistang Pinoy at the Garapan Central Park [in 2008] because we didn't have to pay for power and there's already a stage available. This year, we have not decided yet where to hold it," said Yana, who is also the president of the Saipan Association of Filipino Skilled Workers.

She said the decision on where to hold the June 12 Independence Day celebration will depend on whether UFO will be able to raise enough funds from the upcoming UFO basketball tournament.

In addition, the UFO float for the annual Fourth of July Parade has also been scaled down to save costs.

Established in 1993, UFO has helped many needy Filipinos in

the CNMI and in the Philippines through its various programs and projects, including the Adopt-A-School Project, book donations, and scholarships for needy but deserving young Filipinos.

UFO has also consistently joined the CNMI government and private sector in its various community projects and programs through volunteer work.

Besides the Pistang Pinoy, UFO has also initiated and consistently celebrated the "Paskong Pinoy" and "Simbang Gabi," giving the CNMI community a glimpse of Filipino culture and traditions.

UFO aims to unite the many diverse regional, professional, sports, and other Filipino organizations in the CNMI. But Yana said there are some member organizations that are now inactive, and she called on them to reactivate. UFO consists of at least two representatives from each member organization.

Some of the member-organizations of UFO are the Bayani Association, Bicol Association, Circulo Boholano, Cabalen, Cavite Association, CNMI Power, Filipino Community Foundation, Kapisanan Ng Mga Maggagawang Pilipino, Marianas Radio Group (MDX), Marianas Association of Filipino Engineers and Architects, Marianas Filipino Women Association, Mariana Is-

lands Filipino Institute of CPAs, Northern Marianas Bartenders' Association, Samahang Laguna, Saipan Filipino Referees Association, Samahang Ilocano at Pangasinense, University of the Philippines Alumni Association-CNMI Chapter, and the Visayas Mindanao Association.

#### 2009 UFO officers

On March 15, Philippine labor at-

taché Joann Lourdes Lavilla swore in the 2009 officers and board members of UFO led by president Olive Yana.

The ceremony, held at the Hafa Adai Beach Hotel in Garapan, also inducted the following officers: vice president-administrative, Melvin Malvar; vice president-internal, Apollo Madriaga; vice president-external, Ladyvir Canape; secretary, Annamae Adaza; assistant secretary, Evelyn Deazeta; treasurer, Fernan Enano; assistant treasurer, Mylene Macapagal; auditor, Antonio Soriano; public relations officer-internal, Nicasio Galvez; and public relations officer-external, Lolita Velasco.

Yana said the 2009 officers will continue UFO's tradition of holding cultural activities such as the Pistang Pinoy, and other civic duties including assistance to disaster victims.

On April 10, UFO will again put up a table and tent on the side of the road leading to Mount Tapochau to provide free food and drinks to those who will join the annual Good Friday trek to Saipan's highest point. This will be followed by the April 26 UFO 7th Inter-Organizational Basketball League.

#### LABOR FRONT

### Extension of time for departure

By FERDIE PONCE DE LA TORRE  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

**Q: If an alien worker's employment contract is not renewed, how long can he or she be allowed to stay in the CNMI?**

**A:** According to the new Labor Rules and Regulations, a foreign national worker must exit the Commonwealth within 15 days after the termination of an approved employment contract or any renewal.

An automatic extension of an additional 15 days, however, is available if the foreign national worker is in the process of preparing a complaint to be filed with the Department of Labor, a complaint in a civil matter to be filed in court, or a complaint to the Department of Public Safety with respect to a criminal matter.

**Q: Can a complaining worker obtain an extension of time for departure from the CNMI?**

**A:** The regulations state that a foreign national worker who attends a mediation session

after filing a complaint before Labor may request for an extension of time for departure from the CNMI from the Labor administrative hearing officer.

In deciding a request for extension of time, the hearing officer should consider whether the alien worker is likely not to appear at the hearing, or a deportation order already has been entered, the foreign national worker may continue a fraudulent scheme, the worker has adequate resources to return to the CNMI for proceedings before Labor, or equivalent circumstances exist.

The Regulations state that a hearing officer's order granting an extension of time shall also set an initial hearing date in the matter. A denial of a request for an extension of time may be appealed to the Labor Administrative Hearing Office within 15 days after the date of the denial.

**Q: If an alien worker files a court action, where can he or she request for an extension of time for departure from**

**the CNMI?**

**A:** Pursuant to the regulations, the alien worker who files a court action may request from the court an extension of time for departure from the CNMI and permission to seek temporary work pending resolution of the case. The court order in these regards shall be presented to the Labor director who shall allow temporary work on the same terms as would be available from a hearing officer.

*Disclaimer: Readers should conduct their own research and due diligence and obtain professional legal advice. Saipan Tribune will not be liable for any loss or damage caused by a reader's reliance on information obtained from this section. Submit questions on labor issues to Saipan Tribune via e-mail at editor@saipantribune.com, or by calling 235-6397, 235-2440, or 235-8747 and leaving a message at Ext. 133 or 135. You may also submit questions in person by writing it down and dropping it off at the Saipan Tribune's office on the second floor of the JP Center on Beach Road, Garapan.*

### Lebanese businessmen appeal OFW ban

By KRISTINE L. ALAVE  
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

**MANILA, Philippines**—Lebanese businessmen have appealed to the Philippine government to allow Filipinos to work in Lebanon as the Middle Eastern country was in need of thousands of workers.

### IOM to help 200,000 Japanese-Filipino kids

By VERONICA UY  
INQUIRER.NET

**MANILA, Philippines**—After Japan allowed nationality for illegitimate children of Japanese and Filipino parents, the International Organization for Migration on Thursday said it would help

Abdul Kader Al Jadid, president of the Filipino-Lebanese Friendship Community, has called on the Department of Labor and Employment (DoLE) to immediately lift the deployment ban on overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) which was imposed at the height of the Israel-Hezbollah conflict in 2006.

"The DoLE should not let this opportunity pass for thousands of OFWs affected by the global economic slump by stating that deployment to Lebanon cannot resume unless there is an agreement on labor standards," Jadid said in a statement.

In a statement, IOM said it is implementing a two-year Toyota Foundation-funded project that aims to "enhance multi-agency cooperation and improve public awareness" on the children's situation both here and in Japan.

Several months ago, the Japanese government amended its nationality law by allowing individuals born out of wedlock to Japanese and Filipino parents to acquire Japanese nationality, as long as the child is recognized by the father.

Several months ago, the Japanese government amended its nationality law by allowing individuals born out of wedlock to Japanese and Filipino parents to acquire Japanese nationality, as long as the child is recognized by the father.



# Nograles now leads Charter change efforts

By LEILA SALAVERRIA  
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

**MANILA, Philippines**—The cat is out of the bag, but President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has so far ignored a clamor to knock it down.

Speaker Prospero Nograles Thursday said he had received a draft resolution with 175 signatures calling for the convening of a constituent assembly to amend the Constitution.

Nograles said he intended to file the measure drafted by Camarines Sur Rep. Luis Vil-

lafuerte when Congress reconvenes April 13 after a month-long Lenten break.

“The resolution of Villafuerte is now in my hands, he turned it over to me. So I have decided to file it because it has 175 signatures already,” Nograles said. He said he himself had signed it.

Malacañang is officially staying away from the House move, insisting that Charter change is “dead” as far as the President is concerned.

“Congress can do whatever they want under their mandate. We will respect their decision,”

Undersecretary Anthony Golez, deputy presidential spokesperson, told reporters.

Ms Arroyo has not taken a public position on the House of Representatives’ initiative despite calls by the opposition for her to squelch the issue that resurfaced on Tuesday when Sen. Manuel Villar said that the Villafuerte resolution was only 20 votes shy of the magic number of 197.

Asked if he expected more signatures to the resolution on Thursday, Nograles said: “No. I will file it as it is.”

Villafuerte has said he was

seeking 197 signatures to the resolution. This is the number, he

## Woman survives ‘death jump’ at LRT

**MANILA, Philippines**—Passengers waiting for a ride at the Tayuman station of the Light Rail Transit Line 1 in Manila were surprised when a woman suddenly jumped onto the tracks just as a Baclaran-bound train was pulling into the station at around 9:30 a.m. Thursday.

As the train bore down on her, the woman, later identified as Teresita Tagle, 41, laid face down in the middle of the tracks.

With a horrified crowd looking on, the first coach of the train rolled over Tagle’s prone body before it came to a stop.

Security guards of the LRT immediately jumped onto the tracks, peering underneath the train and looking for the victim.

A few minutes later, they pulled out Tagle—alive and sporting only a few cuts and bruises—from beneath the first and second coaches.

said, required by the Constitution to effect Charter change with the

Security personnel said the woman survived because of the one-foot gap between the train and the tracks.

LRTA spokesperson Tina Cacion told the Inquirer that Tagle was treated at the Baclaran Central Station for her injuries.

The victim was later taken to the Jose Reyes Memorial Medical Center where doctors recommended that she be taken to a mental facility because she showed signs of depression and mental instability.

The mental facility where she was taken by LRT personnel, however, refused to admit her, leaving them no choice but to take her to her home in Tondo.

Barangay officials who talked to the LRT personnel later confirmed that Tagle has a history of mental instability.

But Tagle denied this. She told reporters that she jumped

Senate and the House of Representatives voting jointly.

onto the LRT tracks on a whim.

She explained that she was on her way to the store to buy food for her three children when she found herself at the Tayuman station.

Tagle, however, admitted that she had been worried over her family’s financial situation as her husband, a delivery van helper, hardly made enough money for them to get by.

Cacion, meanwhile, said that the LRT was not interested in punishing the victim.

“For humanitarian reasons, the LRT Authority has decided not to press charges [against her]. We simply brought her home and turned her over to barangay officials in Tondo,” she said.

Under LRTA regulations, any unauthorized person who jumps onto the train tracks is fined P50,000. *(Philippine Daily Inquirer)*

## PHILIPPINE BRIEFS

### 10 firms join bid for poll automation

**MANILA, Philippines**—Ten polling and information technology firms, all but two of them foreign, wish to supply the automation machines for the 2010 presidential and national elections, according to the Commission on Elections. The Comelec Thursday identified the companies that bought bid documents, at P1 million a set, for the P11.3-billion automation contract last week as: Total Information Management and Smartmatic; Avante International Inc.; Syrex Corp. and Scantron; DVS Philippines and Samsung; Indra Sistemas SA; Universal Storefront Services Co. and Sequoia; All Data Hub International Inc.; Gilat Satellite Networks Ltd.; AMA Group Holdings Corp. and ES&S International; and Mega Data Corp. According to the Comelec, Mega Data Corp. and AMA Group Holding Corp. were the only home-grown companies among them. *(INQUIRER.net)*

### Barring hitch, Mancao home by Tuesday—Gonzalez

**MANILA, Philippines**—Former police official Cezar Mancao II, a suspect in the murder of a public relations executive and his driver, is expected to arrive from the United States on Tuesday, unless there is a change in plans by US authorities in charge of his extradition, according to Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez. “He should be home by Tuesday. That is what I am expecting, but we don’t control US authorities and we have yet to receive an official notice,” Gonzala-

lez told reporters Thursday. Mancao, a former senior superintendent and aide to then national police chief (now senator) Panfilo Lacson, fled to the US in 2001, presumably to evade trial for the murder of Salvador “Bubby” Dacer and his driver Emmanuel Corbito in 2000. He recently executed an affidavit implicating Lacson, former President Joseph Estrada and Michael Ray Aquino, also a former police senior superintendent, in the double murder. *(INQUIRER.net)*

### Arroyo orders PNP: Stop media killings

**MANILA, Philippines**—Heavily criticized over a number of unresolved political killings since she came to power, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo Thursday gave an explicit order to the Philippine National Police: Stop the killing of journalists. Specifically, the President ordered Police Director Jesus Verzosa to protect Davao broadcaster Elgin Damasco, who had received death threats for linking the military to the murder of a communist insurgent’s daughter. “We must bring political killings to zero, including assassinations of government officials and media personalities,” she said in a speech before the 2009 graduates of the Philippine National Police Academy in Silang town, Cavite province. The order came just days after the New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists placed the Philippines on a list of countries where media personnel are allegedly killed with impunity. *(INQUIRER.net)*

## 3 killed, 20 injured in SLEX, NLEX accidents

**MANILA, Philippines**—Three people were killed and 20 others injured in two accidents that occurred hours apart of each other Friday on the South and North Luzon Expressways, the authorities said.

Three employees of the Department of Education died when the vehicle they were traveling in slammed onto a concrete post and collided with an oncoming bus on the northbound lane of the South Luzon Expressway (SLEX) in Taguig City in the first accident, which occurred at 5:18 a.m.

Nazario Caro, Necena Caro, and Aurelia Guevara died on the spot from severe head and body

injuries, according to Aivie Vidal, radio operator of the police Highway Patrol Group.

Vidal said the victims were cruising along SLEX on board a Nissan Terrano driven by Nazario around when the vehicle rammed a concrete column of the Skyway at Kilometer 12.

She said the impact made the vehicle spin at least three times before hitting the Makati-bound Eagle Star bus driven by Alfredo Ferino.

Vidal said Ferino and an unidentified passenger on the bus were also hurt and were taken to the South Superhighway Medical Center.


She said the accident snarled

traffic on the northbound portion of the SLEX.


The early morning traffic jam slowly returned to normal after personnel of the Philippine National Construction Corp. removed the wrecked vehicles from the area at 6:35 a.m., Vidal said.


About three hours later, 18 passengers of a jeepney, including five children, were hurt when a six-wheel van turned on its side and hit the passenger vehicle on the North Luzon Expressway in Marilao, Bulacan.


The accident stalled traffic for at least two hours on the northbound lanes of the highway, the authorities said. *(Philippine Daily Inquirer)*




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**NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION**  
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**NOTICE OF SALE**  
**UNDER POWER OF SALE  
IN DEED OF TRUST**  
GINA K. SOMORANG/ SOLEDAD K. SOMORANG AND MIGUEL O. SOMORANG (collectively "Trustor"), on or about May 02, 1984, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on May 03, 1984, under Document No. 84-686 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.  
  
The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:  
  
LOT NO. 005 I 548, CONTAINING AN AREA OF 885 SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS, AS SHOWN ON THE DIVISION OF LANDS AND SURVEY'S OFFICIAL CADASTRAL PLAT NUMBER 2084/82, THE ORIGINAL OF WHICH WAS REGISTERED WITH THE LAND REGISTRY AS DOCUMENT NUMBER 14232 DATED MAY 14, 1982, THE DESCRIPTION THEREIN BEING INCORPORATED HEREIN BY REFERENCE.  
  
The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on November 24, 2008. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.  
  
Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on April 17, 2009, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than \$38,130.00. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.  
  
Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Merced M. Tomokane, Chairwoman of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than April 16, 2009, at 4:00 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than April 16, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.  
  
The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale.  
  
Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.  
  
Dated this 16th day of March, 2009.  
  
/S/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO  
Corporate Director, NMHC  
 NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency




Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
**NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION**  
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Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp




**NOTICE OF SALE**  
**UNDER POWER OF SALE  
IN DEED OF TRUST**  
IGNACIO A. CABRERA AND ANA B. CABRERA (collectively "Trustor"), on or about October 21, 1983, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on October 21, 1983 under Document No. 83-90 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.  
  
The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:  
  
LOT NO. 006 T 18, AND CONTAINING AN AREA OF 901 SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS, AS MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED ON DRAWING/CADASTRAL PLAT NUMBER 006 T 01, THE ORIGINAL OF WHICH WAS REGISTERED WITH THE LAND REGISTRY AS DOCUMENT NUMBER 18011, ON THE 7TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 1983  
  
The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on December 10, 2008. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.  
  
Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on April 17, 2009, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than \$56,330.00. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.  
  
Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Merced M. Tomokane, Chairwoman of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than April 16, 2009, at 4:00 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than April 16, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.  
  
The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale.  
  
Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.  
  
Dated this 16th day of March, 2009.  
  
/S/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO  
Corporate Director, NMHC  
 NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency



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Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp



**NOTICE OF SALE**  
**UNDER POWER OF SALE  
IN DEED OF TRUST**  
LORETTA K. DELEON GUERRERO ("Trustor"), on or about June 29, 1998, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on June 30, 1998, under Document No. 98-1942 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.  
  
The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:  
  
LOT NO. 010 K 05, CONTAINING AN AREA OF 892 SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS, AS MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED ON DRAWING/CADASTRAL PLAT NUMBER 010 K 01 DATED AUGUST 19, 1987, COMMONWEALTH RECORDER'S FILE NO. 87-2911 DATED AUGUST 19, 1987, THE DESCRIPTION THEREIN BEING INCORPORATED HEREIN BY REFERENCE.  
  
The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on November 24, 2008. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.  
  
Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on April 17, 2009, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than \$42,330.00. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.  
  
Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Merced M. Tomokane, Acting Chairwoman of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than April 16, 2009, at 4:00 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than April 16, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.  
  
The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale.  
  
Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.  
  
Dated this 16th day of March, 2009.  
  
/S/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO  
Corporate Director, NMHC  
 NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency



# Teodoro sorry for delay to free hostages

By CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA,  
JOCELYN UY, JULIE ALIPALA  
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

**MANILA, Philippines**—Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro Thursday apologized for the delay in the release of the three International Committee of the Red Cross aid workers held captive by Abu Sayyaf bandits in Jolo Island, Sulu province, since Jan. 15.

But the Armed Forces' Chief of Staff Alexander Yano said the government was not setting a timetable for the hostages' release.

"I am asking for our people's forgiveness and understanding," he said in Filipino at a press briefing in Malacanang. "It's not easy to work under this situation because we are dealing with an irrational organization."

Teodoro said the governments of Italy and Switzerland were naturally "very concerned about the plight" of their nationals—Eugene Vagni and Andreas Notter, respectively. The third hostage is Filipino Mary Jean Lacaba.

"But I'm thankful that they understand the difficulty of the situation and

have supported our efforts to secure the release of the hostages," he said.

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has directed the government negotiators to "exert and exhaust all measures to ensure the safe release of the hostages," according to Teodoro.

He said Ms Arroyo wanted "a speedy resolution" but was aware of "the balance that needs to be done, which is to ensure the hostages' safety."

Abu Sayyaf commander Albader Parad has demanded that government troops withdraw from areas near where the bandits were holding out.

Early this week, he gave the government until March 31 to pull back its troops or one of the hostages would be beheaded.

## 'Time running out'

Lacaba on Thursday called on the government to move quickly.

"Please tell them (the government) that if they can help, to make it faster because time is running out on us," she told ANC television by mobile phone.

Lacaba said she and her colleagues were afraid for their lives "every

minute, every second, because we don't know when a firefight will suddenly start."

She also said the three of them sometimes had nothing to eat because their captors were busy eluding the pursuing troops.

According to Lacaba, the hostages heard gunfire and explosions just above their heads last week, after Marine snipers fired as the bandits tried to breach a loose military cordon.

The episode sparked two days of clashes that killed three Marines and up to seven bandits.

The hostages were not harmed, but Parad later threatened to kill all of them if another clash erupted or if the military tried to rescue them.

In the same interview with ANC television Thursday, Parad repeated his earlier promise to free a hostage if troops moved farther away, and to behead one if they did not.

"They know I do what I say," he said.

## Fundraising for 2010

Said Teodoro at the press briefing: "I don't see any positive thing that can be

gained by the Abu Sayyaf if they make good their threat to behead the hostages. It would not do anybody any good."

He also said the government had not ruled out the possibility that some local officials might be involved in kidnappings in the south, and that these activities could be aimed at raising funds for the 2010 elections.

"There could be some connection ... We can surmise, but we cannot do anything about it without concrete evidence," he said.

"And first things first: We have to secure the safe release of the hostages ... We will deal with the problem later, when we have less pressing matters to [attend to]."

## No timetable

At the same briefing, Yano said the government was "trying to explore all possibilities of peaceful action to recover the hostages safely."

Yano said the government was not setting a timetable to recover Lacaba, Notter and Vagni.

"We have continued to maintain the pressure within the vicinity," he said.

"We have seen to it that there would be no offensive action on the part of the government troops at this time ... We will [give] time and space to allow peaceful measures to be undertaken."

## No pullout

On the phone from Jolo, Lt. Col. Edgard Arevalo, the newly appointed spokesperson for the hostage crisis, said the military was continuing to assess the bandits' demand because, he pointed out, to give in would be to virtually desert the local residents.

"We have repositioned our troops as [the bandits] had demanded," Arevalo said, adding: "There is no need for us to pull out any further. We are virtually giving them 92 percent of Jolo."

## TAKE CHARGE OF YOUR MONEY

### How to qualify for a home loan

*Editor's Note: This is part of Take Charge of Your Money, a partnership between INQUIRER.net and Citibank to help readers handle their personal finances well.*

**Question: I'm 45 years old and a single mom with a 9-year-old son. We've been living with my parents for many years now and I think it's about time I buy my own house. Am I too old to do this? I don't have enough cash to buy a house so I will take out a housing loan. Do you think I will still be qualified given my age? And is this a good time given the current financial crisis?—Nina**

**Answer:** Buying a house is a good investment, especially if you will make it your family home. Not only will it give you a sense of security, it will also be an asset you can pass on to your son in the future. Real estate prices may also go up especially if the location is good.

"In general, purchasing a home to live in makes financial sense unless rents are very low indeed, so most people choose to have real estate in their portfolio of assets," write the authors of the book *The Citibank Guide to Building Personal Wealth*.

For banks, as long as you have a stable job with a reliable income stream coming in the years ahead (your capacity to pay, in other words), you may be considered for a housing loan. More so if you score favorably on the other Cs of credit: client history and collateral.

Before granting a loan application, banks check if the applicant has been responsible in paying bills on time. This includes payment history for credit cards as well as for other consumer loans such as an auto loan. (This is why it is important to keep your credit history blemish-free.) Banks would also assess if you can put up enough collateral as security that you will pay back your loan in full. Real estate properties and other investments such as stocks and government securities may be used as collateral for bank loans.

With the current financial climate worldwide and the subprime mortgage situation in the US, expect banks and financial institutions to be stricter in evaluating loan applications. The Philippine banking system, although

partly affected by the world crisis, is deemed strong enough to weather the financial crisis and its effects, thanks to conservative policies in place over the years. So in spite of the crisis, it is still a good time to apply for a housing loan.

At this time, there are also a lot of real estate projects ongoing in Metro Manila and major cities in the provinces, so you can have your pick of the best house that would meet your and your son's needs. If you want a brand new house or condominium, look into house-and-lot or condominium packages that are at pre-selling stage as these will be cheaper. Make sure the property is in a good location, has good potential to appreciate in value, and near your place of work and your son's school. If you can live with a previously owned unit or house, check out the list of foreclosed assets sold by banks and financial institutions; these will be cheaper but may still qualify as a good buy.

When applying for a housing loan, scout first among the banks for the best terms. A loan payable over 20 years will be reasonable as payments will not be too steep. At the end of 20 years, you will be 65 years old, and will be able to enter retirement debt-free. Check also with the Social Security System, Government Service Insurance System and Pag-Ibig Fund for housing loans you can avail of at lower interest rates.

How much loan can you afford to assume? "No more than 40 percent of your monthly take-home pay should go to paying all debts, including mortgage payments," advises Citibank in its booklet *Use Credit Wisely*. So before you sign on the dotted line, make a budget and see if you can afford the monthly payments for the next 20 years. And always, read the fine print before affixing your signature.

*INQUIRER.net and Citibank invite readers to ask questions regarding financial matters. Send your questions to [personal\\_finance@inquirer.net](mailto:personal_finance@inquirer.net). Readers are solely responsible for their own investment decisions and should thus conduct their own research and due diligence and obtain professional advice. INQUIRER.net will not be liable for any loss or damage caused by a reader's reliance on information obtained from our web site.*



## COURTESY CALL

Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, right, greets Spanish Foreign Minister Miguel Angel Moratinos during his courtesy call at the Malacanang presidential palace in Manila, Philippines on Wednesday March 25, 2009. Moratinos is Manila for a three-day visit to talk to Philippine officials on ways to improve bilateral ties between the two countries.

# DSWD to debrief repatriated sex workers

By NIKKO DIZON  
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

**MANILA, Philippines**—A Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) official on Wednesday said the agency was considering the implementation of a "policy to hold" Filipina sex workers repatriated to the Philippines from Malaysia.

Finardo Cabilao, welfare attaché to Malaysia, said his proposal to "quarantine and debrief" the victims is aimed at stopping the vicious cycle of making victims out of Filipino women who go there to work.

Most victims go straight home once they are repatriated, but Cabilao said this should not be the case.

"They should be processed right away because they hardly have reached

their homes, and they are already thinking of how they could leave again. We cannot stop this cycle if we don't do anything about it," he added.

Cabilao, who is in the country to update Social Welfare Secretary Esperanza Cabral and other DSWD officials on the government's aid to Filipino workers in Malaysia, said many of the undocumented workers feel the pressure of having to find work overseas after they are repatriated because they need to support their families.

Cabilao said his "policy to hold" proposal was being seriously considered by the DSWD, given the increasing number of Filipino women who fall prey to the sex trade once they set foot in Malaysia and become among the estimated 150,000 undocumented Filipino workers there.

Sixty-three Filipino women were rescued from brothels and sex dens by the Philippine Embassy from June to December last year and repatriated to the Philippines. Since January this year, 12 had been sent back home.

Cabilao stressed that victims of sex trafficking need psycho-social and medical debriefing.

"It's okay for them to return, but they should go through the legal process. Otherwise, the chances of being exploited would be higher. They may have learned to be creative to avoid abuses, but they could still be subjected to abuse because they are undocumented workers," she added.

The debriefing could take a few days or a maximum of a week, depending on the victim's case.



# Maharlika – PinoyStyle

## Pareño makes dramatic dash from ladies room

By **BAYANI SAN DIEGO JR.**  
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

**MANILA, Philippines**—Actress Gina Pareño made a dramatic entrance at the 3rd Asian Film Awards—the region's answer to the Oscars—held on Monday night at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Center.

According to two members of the Philippine delegation, when Pareño's name was called as Best Supporting Actress winner for her work in "Serbis," she was nowhere to be found.

"Serbis" director Dante Mendoza, a nominee for Best Director, went up the stage to accept Pareño's trophy, script-writer Senedy Que recalled in an e-mail to the Philippine Daily Inquirer. As Dante began to speak, Que wrote, Gina was suddenly sighted running toward the stage.

"I'm sorry, I was in the ladies room," were the actress' first words, delivered breathlessly, from the podium, Ja-

zel Virtusio of the Animation Council of the Philippines said in a text message.

Disarmed, the audience laughed, and then applauded, both Virtusio and Que related.

"Gina explained that the restroom was very far from the hall," Virtusio said. "And then she proceeded to deliver what would be the night's longest acceptance speech, sharing her victory with costar Jaclyn Jose, who was also nominated."

"Serbis" tells the story of a family who operates and lives in a run-down movie house where prostitutes ply their trade.

### Back to work

The next day, Pareño had only one thing on her mind—flying back to Manila so she could return to work on the ABS-CBN soap, "Tayong Dalawa."

She had only that one free day to attend Monday's event, she told the Inquirer. In fact, she said, she almost skipped the ceremony.

"My daughter Raquel (Tajo-



Pareño

nera) and I received our plane tickets only on Saturday, two

days before the flight."

All that rush nearly made Pareño back out, but Mendoza prevailed on her to attend.

"She was a [favorite] in her category and the Hong Kong International Film Festival Society (event organizers) wanted to be sure she would come," the filmmaker said.

### 36 films from 11 countries

This year, 36 films from 11 Asian countries vied for the 13 awards given at the end of the HK fest.

Japan dominated the roster of

winners, with "Tokyo Sonata," by Kiyoshi Kurosawa (no relation to the late great Akira Kurosawa), winning Best Picture, and Hirozaku Koreeda being named Best Director for "Still Walking." Both were described as "family drama."

Pareño and Jose competed with Japan's Aoi Yu for "Sex is No Laughing Matter" and Kiki Kirin for "Still Walking," and South Korea's Kim Ji-Young for "Forever the Moment."

### Not her first

This is the second international recognition for Pareño's perfor-

mance in "Serbis."

She was named Best Actress last year at the 6th Pacific Meridian Film Festival in Vladivostok, Russia, where Mendoza won Best Director. The movie itself was the country's entry in the main competition section of the 2008 Cannes Film Festival.

Prior to "Serbis," Pareño won Best Actress trophies for Jeffrey Jeturian's 2006 film "Kubrador" at the Osian's-Cinefan Festival of Asian and Arab Cinema in New Delhi, the International Festival of Independent Film in Brussels and the Amiens International Film Fest in France.

## Search on for next Kim, Sam

By **BAYANI SAN DIEGO JR.**  
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

They came; they saw; they all want to be the next Bea Saw. Or Sam Milby. Or Kim Chiu.

Thousands of wannabes believe they have what it takes to be the next star via the ABS-CBN reality show, "Pinoy Big Brother."

On February 27, the first time in two years that PBB opened its gates for an audition, over 12,000 trooped to the famous house along Eugenio Lopez Drive.

He got "scared" when he saw the big crowd, business unit head Lauren Dyogi said. "I wasn't prepared for that," he recalled. "We averaged only 4,000 in previous tryouts. It was alarming."

### Sun and rain

The crowds baked under the mid-day sun on the first day and got drenched in a sudden downpour on the second. To prevent any untoward incident, management halted the first audition and started a reservation system via text for the second Metro Manila tryout held on March 9.

Dyogi gave three reasons for the huge turnout. "The fact that we didn't have PBB last year created anticipation among the fans." Secondly, he conceded that the long queue in front of Kuya's house was "also a reflection of our economic situation."

He said, "A lot of people are unemployed. They look at the show as a way to maybe solve their financial problems, their ticket to fame."

These were the same reasons invoked by the hopefuls in the second Manila tryout held at the Pinoy Dream Academy Concert

Hall last week.

A call-center agent/single mom said she wanted to provide good education for her three daughters. A jobless sexy actor/former lifeguard, said the show could reunite him with his two kids in Indonesia.

A nursing student said she's quitting school because her father was laid off on Saipan.

### Others cited non-economic reasons.

A government legal officer said Kuya's house could help him "discover" himself. A photographer thought "it would be fun."

A Manobo (Agusan del Sur) and a Malangi (Kalinga-Apayao), wish to shed light on the plight of their tribes. "I want to show off our culture and hopefully make Filipinos more aware of the environmental issues in Kalinga," said a farmer from Tabuk.

"I promised my community that I would come out on TV so the entire country would know about our problems," said the Manobo, who currently drives a cab.

A cross-dressing dog breeder has a totally different agenda: "I want to be the first pre-op transgender housemate."

Variety is precisely the spice of the PBB stew, Dyogi conceded. "We are looking for someone interesting, someone who's good TV."

A former "Philippine Idol" finalist insisted that she has the goods. "My life is colorful and dramatic. I'll talk about everything – even about my parents' separation and my late father's drug case."

Now, that's reality.

## Diet shields girlfriend from the limelight

By **DOLLY ANNE CARVAJAL**  
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

It was such a delight to interview Diether Ocampo for my daily show "Chikalec-tric" with IC on Viva Cinema Channel.

Since Diet and I are super close, it was such a candid and relaxed tete-a-tete.

Diet has never been happier. "After a roller-coaster relationship with Kristine Hermosa, it's so refreshing that my love life is more peaceful now and secure," Diet beamed. "My new girlfriend (half-Pinay, half-Spanish Rima Lorza Ostwani) is so supportive, an answer to my prayer."

As much as possible, Diet wants to shield her from the limelight. "I bring her to show biz events but I don't want her to give too many interviews," Diet said. "I don't want our relationship to turn into a circus."

Is he ready to take the plunge again since the annulment of his marriage with Kristine

has been granted? "I'm taking it slow this time. I just recovered from a tumultuous relationship so ayoko munang sumabak uli."

There are times for moving ahead. This time Diet is enjoying where he is. Why rush when you don't want time to pass? Is forever about to start for Diet and his girl?

### Eye to eye

Nadia Montenegro is still recuperating from her eye operation. Her medical condition has softened her heart. She's now willing to make peace with Gretchen Barretto after their heated exchange

of words in the past.

"I was on the phone with Pops, and Greta happened to be with her," Nadj reveals. "She got the phone from Pipay and said 'Hi'. Nabigla ako! It lasted for 30 seconds. I appreciate it kasi siya ang nag-exert ng effort. I'd rather keep private the details of our brief talk. It was an unforgettable moment."

After an eye surgery, Nadj is willing to

see eye to eye with Greta.

### No big deal


Alessandra de Rossi paid me a surprise visit during my taping with IC for our show. It's always so much fun being around her. Her joie de vivre is contagious.

Alex thinks the issue on Ara Mina borrowing money from her sister Cristine Reyes should not be a big deal. "Nothing wrong with asking help from your sis," Alex said. "Assunta and I always run to each other for help. What are sisters for?" They're sisters of perpetual help.


### Brat and Yaya

Ogie Alcasid will concentrate more on his TV shows and movies this year. "I won't be doing concerts muna," says Ogie. "I'm excited for the movie version of Spoiled Brat and Yaya based on my character and Michael V's in 'Bubble Gang'. We will also host a game show na in character pa rin kami. It's the Pinoy version of a popular show in Japan where contestants try to fit into huge holes of different shapes."

Ogie's career has never been in better shape.



**Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands**  
**NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION**  
Tel. (670) 234-6886, 234-9447, 234-7689, 234-7670 • Fax. (670) 234-9021  
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp



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## NOTICE OF SALE

### UNDER POWER OF SALE IN DEED OF TRUST

LUCIA M. DELEON GUERRERO ("Trustor"), on or about May 23, 1985, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on May 23, 1985, under Document No. 85-0991 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

**TRACT NUMBER 20472-6, CONTAINING AN AREA OF 907 SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS, AS MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED ON DRAWING/CADASTRAL PLAT NUMBER 2064/82, THE ORIGINAL OF WHICH WAS REGISTERED WITH THE LAND COMMISSION AS DOCUMENT NUMBER 14154, ON THE 26TH OF MARCH, 1982.**

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on November 24, 2008. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on April 17, 2009, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than \$85,730.00. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Merced M. Tomokane, Chairwoman of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than April 16, 2009, at 4:00 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than April 16, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.


The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.


Dated this 17th day of March, 2009.

/S/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO  
Corporate Director, NMHC

NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency



**Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands**  
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Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp



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## NOTICE OF SALE

### UNDER POWER OF SALE IN DEED OF TRUST

VANESSA C. IGINOEF/ VALERIO MENDIOLA CABRERA AND MARIANA ALDAN CABRERA (collectively "Trustor"), on or about June 21, 1985, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on June 26, 1985, under Document No. 85-1210 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

**LOT NO. 011 H 16, CONTAINING AN AREA OF 621 SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS, AS MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED ON DRAWING/CADASTRAL PLAT NUMBER 011 H 00, THE ORIGINAL OF WHICH WAS REGISTERED WITH THE LAND REGISTRY AS DOCUMENT NUMBER 702, ON THE 1ST DAY OF MARCH, 1971.**

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on November 24, 2008. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on April 17, 2009, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than \$40,230.00. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Merced M. Tomokane, Chairwoman of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than April 16, 2009, at 4:00 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than April 16, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.

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Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Dated this 16th day of March, 2009.

/S/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO  
Corporate Director, NMHC

NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency



# Maharlika – Opinyon

## A fate worse than rape

There are in fact three rapes here. The first one is the rape of Nicole.

Is that still true after Nicole recanted?

But of course. Sen. Loren Legarda has a point about the recantation being shot full of holes. To begin with, why on earth should Nicole wish to relocate to the country of birth of the man she accused of raping her? And whom she has just now cleared of the crime?

That point raises still other questions: One, how did she manage to get a visa from the US Embassy? And two, why aren't they extraditing her even as we speak for having brought false charges against one of their own, impugning the integrity of the US armed forces in this country, or, since that is of little truth or consequence, subverting the line about the VFA being more benign than the US bases?

Nope, they just bought her. Lock, stock and barrel. Or body, soul and everything else in-between. Which, as the going rate for rape in this country these days, isn't bad at all. A green card, pocket money and a

past blotted out in a strange new world the way the past of her country has been blotted out of the memory of its inhabitants, giving them to live in a strange and alien world.

For the rest of us, of course it remains a tragedy. As friends of mine say, they didn't just rape her, they turned her into a prostitute. The first without her consent, the second completely with it.

Nicole's turnaround notwithstanding, says Sen. Aquilino "Nene" Pimentel Jr., it shouldn't be a reason for the senators turning around in their task to review the VFA. A sentiment shared by Sen. Francis "Kiko" Pangilinan who filed a bill in February calling for the termination of the VFA. He deserves praise for it.

That is the second rape. Long before Nicole, Inang Bayan was raped by Mr. Smith, the guy who went to Washington, in the form of the VFA. Barely had Inang Bayan enjoyed her newfound respectability, having just recovered from the (multiple) rape of the US bases, than she found the VFA on top of her. And, as with the US bases, with the Philippine government pimping for it.

Is that rape true, real and proven as well? Yes. The frenetic activities of the Americans in Mindanao show it beyond a shadow of doubt. The VFA in fact is worse than the US bases. It is the one thing that has allowed the US to subvert Philippine sovereignty by rekindling and fanning the secessionist ambitions of the Moros. The Bangsamoro Republic far less reflects the Moros' aspirations than it does their American patrons' contemplations. What was Kristie Kenney doing in Kuala Lumpur last year, eager to see the MOA signed?

The VFA should be terminated posthaste, with or without Barack Obama. It has already done tremendous harm to the country. Of course in this case, the continuing rape of Inang Bayan is being done courtesy of the pimping of Malacañang. More so now than in Bigote's time, the current service provider exacting a far steeper price than her predecessor did, which is nothing less than her survival.

That brings me to the third rape, which is no less true, real and provable despite being a little less visible.

I don't know that I can bring myself to judge Nicole too harshly. Of course I hear the cries of anger and dismay from a public that feels raw and shortchanged. Of course I hear the weeping and gnashing of teeth of the people who took up the cudgels for her, defending her as much

in the court of public opinion as in the court of law, when the other side took care to depict her as a woman who did not need coercing to part with her virtue, or whatever else she had left to part with. Of course I hear the lamentations and vituperations of the women's groups that refused to stop until they roused this country, its mind too numb to reel from yet another iniquity and wanting only to fall into the embrace of sleep, into wakefulness—like the prince in Ibong Adarna by rubbing calamansi on wound.

By why should Nicole choose the heroic path, or just the honorable one, when there is nothing in this country to support that choice? Everywhere there is corruption, rottenness, cheating, lying, stealing, murder, rape, looking out for oneself, dog versus dog, every man, or woman, for himself/herself, the devil take the hindmost. Of course there is the example set by people like Jun Lozada who have taken the honorable and heroic path amid the greatest adversity. But that example also says that there is a steep price to pay for it. That example shows that in this country the wicked are rewarded plentifully and the good are punished harshly. Why should Nicole, who has endured the burdens of the world, want to endure more?

Of course she had responsibilities, having become the symbol of purloined honor, or national debasement, but she has an example there too. No one has more responsibilities than the person currently occupying Malacañang, and shirking them—no, scuttling them—has not harmed her, it has benefited her. A society has a right to expect decent choices from its citizens only when it can enforce decency. A society has the right to expect moral choices from its citizens only when it can enforce morality. A society has the right to expect its citizens to routinely do the right thing only when it can routinely reward the right thing and punish the wrong one. That is not true here. The opposite is true here.

That is the worst rape of all, the brutal, savage and mindless assault on this country that has left it not just deprived but depraved, that has made its inhabitants choose not the lonely path of justice but the gainful path of prostitution.

Juan de la Cruz has been violated several times over. In the mind and not just in the body. In the soul and not just in the rump. In the end, that's not just rape. That's a fate worse than rape.

## EDITORIAL

### Lorelei-ing

The President of the Philippines expresses her contempt for public opinion by deputizing the most ill-informed, the least knowledgeable neophyte politician available to speak on her behalf. We mean, of course, Lorelei Fajardo, one of two deputy presidential spokespersons.

Her role is lip service, in a deeply literal sense. Fajardo makes herself available to the media for comments on various issues, ostensibly on behalf of the President. But what insipid comments! Even critics of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo will acknowledge the strength of her work ethic and the quality of her intellectual equipment. But Fajardo is the complete opposite; she is obviously out of her depth.

How can the consent of the governed be informed, when the government only wants to pretend to inform the public? Call it Lorelei-ing (or Lore-lying).

The ideal approach is to ignore her, and to wait for more authoritative statements from Anthony Golez, Cerge Remonde, Eduardo Ermita or the President herself. Last Monday, however, she said some things in reaction to the news that Fr. Ed Panlilio, the priest-governor of Pampanga province, was considering a presidential run, that made us sit up and take notice—but for all the wrong reasons.

"It's easy to talk, that's rhetoric, but what about performance? We should look at performance, because we are already talking about the highest leader of the land," Fajardo told reporters.

Her emphasis on performance seems to be yet another of those unexamined motherhood statements she was hired to spout. The deputy presidential spokesperson may be incapable of phrasing the thought felicitously, but who can argue with the idea that "performance" is an essential criterion for choosing the next president?

She dismissed the whole notion of "reformist" or value-based politics by asserting that the only—or the main—thing that distinguishes politicians is performance. For instance: "You are a traditional politician, and your performance is good, [then] I think performance should be the basis [for voters to choose you again]."

So far, so party-line. But Fajardo did not leave well enough alone. She also said running a province (a jab at Panlilio) was different from running a country. "If your performance is not good in a lower position, let's say as mayor or governor or any position for that matter, how can you lead the entire nation? That's what we have to be careful about."

First things first: The implied criticism of Panlilio is part of a long-term Palace strategy to weaken his chances of reelection. But, more important, let's examine the assumption behind Fajardo's blithe putdown of other offices. By her own logic, only four politicians are qualified to seek the presidency: the three former presidents, and the incumbent herself, all of whom are disqualified from running again.

Of course, running a province is different from running a country. But no one disputes that a state governor in the United States can become commander in chief, or a mayor of Paris an effective president of France. Why should Fajardo suggest otherwise?

The easy answer is to suppose that she wasn't thinking. But the scary possibility exists that, on this point, the spokesperson is in fact reflecting the views of the person she speaks for.

© Philippine Daily Inquirer



### There's The Rub

By CONRADO DE QUIROS  
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

## Bank accounts of our heroes

When Kentucky Fried Chicken tried to re-brand itself into something more modern and healthy than the "finger-lickin'" cholesterol favorite created by "Colonel Saunders," it simply went on an ad campaign and re-named itself "KFC." If you remove "fried" from the name, it becomes more acceptable.

Another example of clever branding is "HSBC," which advertises itself as a global bank. To be global means downplaying "Hongkong Shanghai Banking Corp." and showing how many branches they have worldwide outside China. The sleek HSBC advertisements also make it seem like a very contemporary bank, a modern institution that has actually been around—in the Philippines for over a century. Sometimes HSBC builds on its historic ties with the Philippines because no other bank has a written endorsement from none other than the National Hero himself! In one of his letters to his family, Jose Rizal said that remittances and exchange rates are better with HSBC.

But Rizal was not the only HSBC client. Another client of the bank was none other than Emilio Aguinaldo who deposited the money paid him by the Spaniards in 1897 to lay down his arms and take a break from the revolution by going into exile in Hong Kong. The "revolucionarios" in exile did not agree on the way the money was handled. Aguinaldo deposited the money in HSBC and the ancestor of the present Standard Chartered Bank, and declared that the principal would not be touched and that everyone would live on the interest from these funds. Some greedy Hong Kong exiles wanted to divide the money, and when Aguinaldo refused, they took him to court. Aguinaldo eluded the court summons by traveling to Singapore, where he then met the US consul who convinced him to return to the Philippines and resume the fight against Spain. That, of course, is another story.

So if HSBC had Rizal and Aguinaldo as preferred clients, what about Andres Bonifacio? From childhood we are led to believe that Bonifacio was poor and sometimes illiterate. Nothing can be farther from the truth. Early in October 1896, after a lull in the outbreak of the Philippine Revolution in August, the Spanish Governor-General Ramon Blanco (whose portrait can be viewed in the Lopez Memorial Museum) ordered that assets of suspected Katipuneros be frozen. Naturally, Bonifacio's name crops up in the archival documents and I was so eager to see where he kept his savings deposit and how much he owned.

Bonifacio's two known Manila addresses were given to the banks. These were San Jose street in Trozo and the home of a certain "Capitan

Quicoy" on Lavesares Street. Of course, by this time Bonifacio was already in hiding and there was not much to confiscate from the places where he is said to have lived.

There is an inventory of books captured in the bodega where he was working, and from this list, which includes Rizal's works and books on the French Revolution and "The Lives of the Presidents of the United States," we get a glimpse into his personality. Whether he read the books or merely kept them is another matter.

First, the government asked Banco Espanol-Filipino (the ancestor of Bank of the Philippine Islands) and HSBC on Oct. 6, 1896 to freeze Bonifacio's assets. The banks gave these replies:

"Banco-Espanol-Filipino, Manila. In reply to your communication of the sixth received today, relating to the embargo of the assets of Andres Bonifacio and Candido Garcia, I state that none of these individuals have funds nor stocks, nor shares, nor securities, nor credit of any kind in this bank." The certificate was signed by Venancio Balbas and was dated Oct. 14, 1896.

"Hongkong Shanghai (sic) Banking Corporation, Manila. In answer to your communication of the 6th of this month received this afternoon, may we state that the individuals Andres Bonifacio and Candido Garcia do not have any kind of deposit in this establishment either in cash or stocks. We hope we have [complied] with your order." The certificate was signed by H. R. Coombs, agent, also on Oct. 14, 1896.

As late as Oct. 20, 1896 another certification from Administracion de la Hacienda Publica, Principal de Manila, stated that Andres Bonifacio, Juan Cuadras, Martin Ocampo, Alejandro Santiago, Modesto Espanol, Captain Ramon, and Candido Garcia "do not figure in our books as contributors."

My initial excitement when I first looked at these documents turned to frustration when I realized that Bonifacio was not an HSBC Premiere client, but then wouldn't it be logical for him to withdraw all his money before the outbreak of the revolution? What if he opened and maintained a bank account under an assumed name?

While this investigation turned out to be a dud, the other names that appear in the certificates give us other people who were involved in the Katipunan and are missing from our pantheon of heroes and patriots. One lead turns out to be a dead end but other leads can be further explored in our quest to complete the history of the Philippine Revolution.

Comments are welcome at [aocampo@ateneo.edu](mailto:aocampo@ateneo.edu).



### Looking Back

By AMBETH OCAMPO  
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

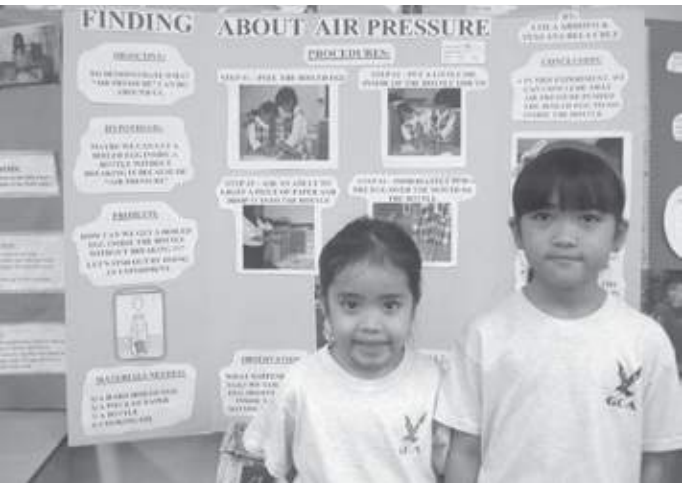


# Maharlika – Samu’t Sari

## GCA holds third Science Fair

A total of 122 experiments were on display at the Grace Christian Academy campus on Thursday in celebration of the school’s third Science Fair. Elementary students displayed 58 projects, while the junior high division had 34. There were about 30 from the high school division.

The school holds the event every two years. The competition will have top three winners in each of the five contest categories: biology, health, chemistry, physics, and earth and science. The following pictures are the projects of the first grade students under Ms. Leah Garfil:



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
Finding About Air Pressure by Yuki Anna Dela Cruz and Catherine Laila Arroyo.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
Investigate Wind by Caryl Batenga.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
The Mystery of Dry Paper by Clark Birmingham and Richard Salas.

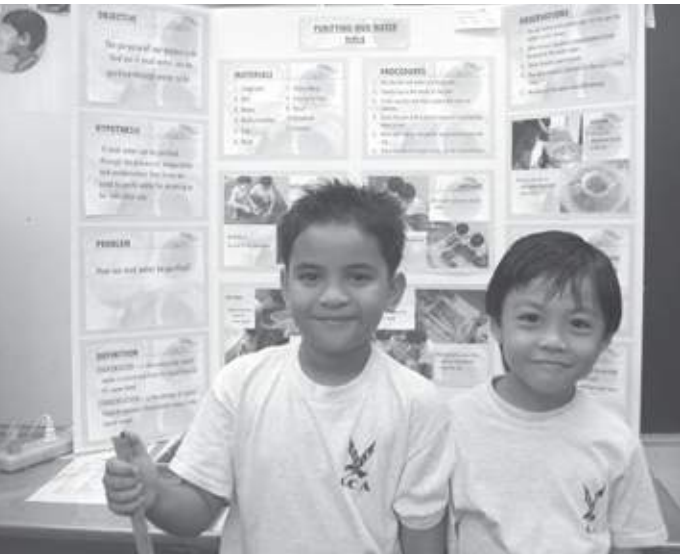


CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
The Big Dig by Hannah Palacios.

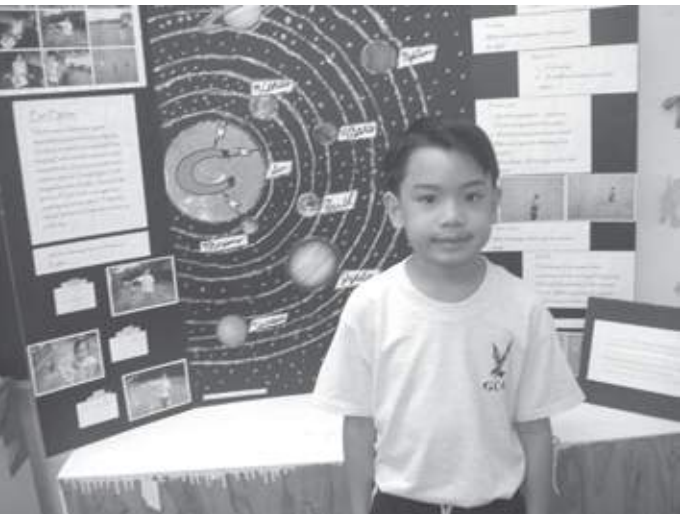
**THE BEST BOSS EVER**

Happy birthday greetings to Dandan Elementary School principal Jonas Barcinas, who is celebrating his 43rd birthday tomorrow, March 29. “We want to wish him the best birthday because he is the best boss we ever had, an outgoing and enthusiastic leader who goes all out for the students, staff, parents, the PSS system, and the community. He shares his knowledge with many and moves mountains to make DES the best learning institution for children. He is so valuable in that he goes beyond the call of duty to help everyone in need. That’s what makes him a unique and outstanding leader. He is the best boss ever.” From us, the Tottot Family, Barcinas family, and friends.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
Purifying Mud Water by Arvin Dayao and Matt Jason Moran.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
Holding The Planet by Martin Pangilinan.



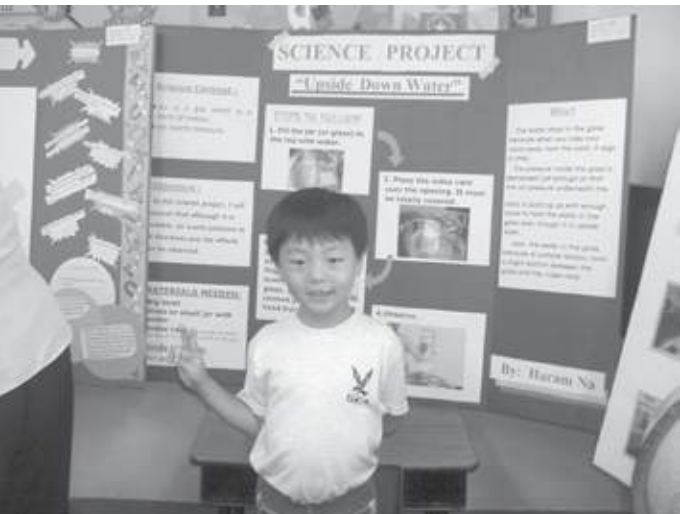
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
Musical Bottles by Lorenzo Taylor and Xavier Ada.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
Salt Water vs Fresh Water by Ryle Ann Buenaventura.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
Lunar Eclipse Model by Tae Yong.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
Upside Down Water by Haram Na.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
Lift an Ice Cube With a String by Robert Schorr.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
Rubbery Egg by Mej Christian Pascual.



# Youngstyle

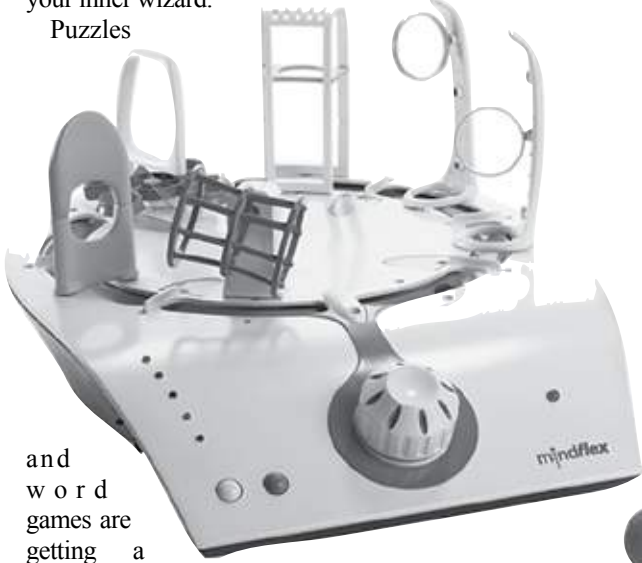
# One cool play list

By MARGARET WEBB PRESSLER  
(C) 2009, THE WASHINGTON POST

Every year, the biggest and best toy companies gather in New York at the annual Toy Fair to show off their new products. It's where stores get the first look at the cool toys and games they'll be selling later in the year.

Toy companies think that because of the hard economic times, families will be staying home a lot this year, so there were plenty of family games on display at Toy Fair '09, held last month. Even games can come with great technology, such as the ability to read your brain waves! At least two companies introduced games in which you move the game piece by just thinking about moving it! It can certainly help you get in touch with your inner wizard.

Puzzles



and word games are getting a lot of attention, too, so you'll soon see some cool new versions, including a 3-D puzzle. Great craft sets also are coming out, including one for personalizing your clothes like never before. Animal lovers, meanwhile, will find a new way to bond with the family pet thanks to the collar camera, something the whole family can enjoy.

Most of the items on this list will not be available until the fall, but we've noted some that are out now or coming soon. Of course, as you know,

## TOY FAIR TRIVIA

Toy Fair TriviSome 1,200 exhibitors at the Toy Fair '09 in New York put on display a whopping 100,000 products—including more than 7,000 toys, games and other products that had never before been seen! For more about the Toy Fair, see [www.toyassociation.org](http://www.toyassociation.org).

(c) 2009, The Washington Post

it's never too early to start making your list! (Toy, manufacturer, age range, suggested price)



THE WASHINGTON POST  
At least two companies at Toy Fair '09 introduced games in which you move the game piece by just thinking about moving it! With Mattel's Mindflex Game (\$80), if you concentrate enough on making the ball float, eventually it will.

*Mindflex Game, Mattel*  
**8 and up, \$80**

Strap on the headpiece and start thinking — hard. If you concentrate enough on making the ball float, eventually it will. But then you have to get it to go through a tiny obstacle course. Takes



THE WASHINGTON POST

Companies think that because of the hard economic times, families will be staying home a lot this year, so there were plenty of family games on display at Toy Fair '09, held last month. From left, Likewise! (\$25), Cra-Z-Art 3-D puzzles (\$10-\$15) and Connect 4x4 (\$20), from Hasbro.

major focus, but SO cool!

*Tyco R/C Stunt Psycho Vehicle*  
**Mattel, 8 and up, \$50**

There were lots of remote-control vehicles whirring and buzzing around Toy Fair. This clearly was one of the coolest, with springlike wheels that make the vehicle capable of amazing, bouncy, crash-proof tricks so the action never stops.

*UCreate Music*  
**Radica, 6 and up, \$48**

Let out your inner DJ with this simple machine that allows you to mix tracks, add riffs and beats and create your own unique sound from your music library.

*Connect 4x4*  
**Hasbro, 8 and up, \$20**

Connect 4 is a old favorite, but this is like a whole new game. With disks and rings, you can change the color of your opponent's pieces as you play. It takes real strategic thinking to win.

*Likewise!*  
**Buffalo Games, 12 and up, \$25 (available now).**

This game rewards group thinking. The cards give you a concept or object, and each player uses a marker and board to write down the first thing that comes to mind. Players with answers that match other players' answers score points.

*EyeClops Mini Projector*  
**Jakks Pacific, 8 and up, \$100**

This little projector is pricey, but standard projectors cost at least four times as much. And this one is so small you can hold it in the palm of your hand. Just plug in your portable DVD player and you can watch a big-screen picture on the wall, the ceiling or the inside of a tent.

*3-D puzzles*  
**Cra-Z-Art, 8 and up, \$10-\$15**

You've seen puzzles that create 3-D shapes, such as the globe or buildings, but these traditional floor puzzles

have extra pieces to layer in certain places, creating depth. With vivid puzzle images, it's a dramatic result.

*Sky Slasherz*  
**Little Kids, 8 and up, \$6 (available now)**

This tiny oval bowl-shaped piece of soft plastic has some serious aerodynamics. If you throw it right, it'll loop around and come back to you, boomerang style. The key is the flick of the wrist.



THE WASHINGTON POST

Great craft sets also are coming out, including one for personalizing your clothes like never before. Here, the Style Six fashion activity line (\$10-\$40) from Jakks Pacific.

*Style Six fashion activity line*  
**Jakks Pacific, 8 and up, \$10-\$40**

Your parents might hate it when you get paint and marker on your clothing, but these sets make marking your clothes A-OK. Different versions allow you to customize your clothes with screen printing, gems and more. Amazing effects for the price, and fun to do.

*Pet's Eye View Camera*  
**Uncle Milton, 8 and up, \$50 (available now)**

Ever wondered how Fluffy sees the world? Wonder no more. This ingenious little camera hangs from your dog's or cat's collar and takes a digital picture every few minutes (you set the time intervals). Download the pictures to get a true pet's-eye view.



THE WASHINGTON POST  
The biggest and best toy companies gather in New York at the annual Toy Fair to show off their new products. Here, the Pet's Eye View Camera (\$50), the EyeClops Mini Projector (\$100) and UCreate Music (\$48), a machine that allows you to mix tracks, add riffs and beats and create your own unique sound.



NEAHNTEK

TDROFUE

TOHLCSHSI

LOOK, THE KING IS BAREFOOT!

LOOK, THE KING IS BAREFOOT!

A FAMOUS PROVERB is hidden in the above frame. Find it by reading every other letter as you go around counterclockwise. The trick is finding the right first letter.

Answer: Starting with the "C" in the bottom rail: "Children and fools speak the truth."

FIND THE HIDDEN COUNTRY in this young man's sentence!

THE CHEESEBURGER MAN YAKKED WHILE FILLING MY ORDER!

Answer: The country is Germany (...cheeseburger MAN Yakked...).

FIND-THIEVEN-SEVEN-WORDS PUZZLE! In the word square at the right, we've removed six of the letters to spell out the word "TRADES." See if you can replace these letters in the squares so that you will have four three-letter words across and three four-letter words down. Time limit: 60 seconds.

Answers: (Across): Ear, are, sea, tad. (Down): East, area, read.

NOTGNIHSAWSNR

EISENHOWEREZSE

NOSREFFEJRYMMV

XPNANAHCBABAO

NOSNHQJBUSHND

JACKSONOSIRRAH

RUHTRAFILLMORE

PTLEVESOORIEDI

Illustrated by David Coulson

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FIND THE PRESIDENTS!

Hidden in the diagram above are the names of 16 of our past presidents. They can be found by reading up or down, or side to side. You'll even find them diagonally going up or down. Letters can be used more than once. Listed below are the presidents you're looking for.

Adams

Arthur

Buchanan

Bush

Eisenhower

Fillmore

Harrison

Hayes

Hoover

Jackson

Jefferson

Johnson

Monroe

Roosevelt

Van Buren

Washington

# Strange BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

- It was American cartoonist, humorist and journalist Kin Hubbard who made the following sage observation: "It seems like the less a statesman amounts to, the more he adores the flag."
- It requires 30 tons of ore from a gold mine to produce a single new gold ring.
- You are almost certainly aware of the fact that the Impressionist painter Claude Monet is famous for his paintings of water lilies. However, you may not be aware of the fact that he painted more than 300 pictures of water lilies. The same water lilies, in fact—and they can still be seen today in a pond behind his house.
- Medical experts say that men are twice as likely to get leprosy as women are.
- At 17,700 feet, the world's highest battlefield is in the disputed region of Kashmir, between India and Pakistan. It seems the altitude is more dangerous than the actual fighting, though; more soldiers have died from frostbite, avalanches and other such hazards than have been killed by the opposing forces.
- Chicago gangster Bugsy Moran got an early start in crime; he committed 26 robberies while he was still a teenager.
- Inexplicably, in Florence, Italy, in the 15th century, it was illegal for women to wear buttons.
- The first telephone book ever issued was published by the New Haven District Telephone Company and was distributed in New Haven, Conn., in February of 1878. It contained a grand total of 50 names.
- In the Scandinavian country of Norway you can find 1,800 lakes that contain no fish whatsoever.

Thought for the Day: "Home computers are being called upon to perform many new functions, including the consumption of homework formerly eaten by the dog."—Doug Larson

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MAGIC MAZE

CHILD'S PLAY

N A X V S Q M G O L K J H E C

A T I C T A C T O E X L V S K

T A R P R N L J E R L H S R I

F G U B G U L S D A F Y K E C

B Y L X V T D R B P O P C K K

M E K I G N E R D B Z S A C B

S X L L A B E G D O D I J E A

W U T E R H Q O N L J M I H L

G F D D T S E O N I M O D C L

C I A E P O R P M U J N Y X W

H C T O C S P O H V T S R P O

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Checkers

Dodge ball

Dominoes

Hide-and-seek

Hopscotch

I spy

Jacks

Jump rope

Kickball

Leapfrog

Marbles

Slug bug

Tag

Tetherball

Tic-tac-toe

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GO FIGURE!

by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

DIFFICULTY: ★★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult

★★★ GO FIGURE!

1 1 2 3 5 6 7 8 9

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MAGIC MAZE ANSWER

CHILD'S PLAY

GO FIGURE ANSWER

# Reader scolds dog owner's dad

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: I am very disappointed by your light-hearted response to the letter written by Rod S. ("How to Correct a Pet Owner"). You start out by blaming the breed of the dog! As if all small dogs get ill-tempered and neurotic, excitable and energetic. Like that's the issue at hand. It clearly is not.

You went on to say that the dog's owner has some issues, but that there are no clear signs of abuse or neglect. You're wrong! Clearly there is abuse! You told him the best thing to do is lead by example. So by not telling his son to knock it off and ignoring the real issues here is a good example?

You told him not to "preach" to his son. That's about the only thing I agreed with you on. Heck no, I wouldn't preach either. I would tell him straight out he's wrong and if he keeps it up, I would take the dog and give it to someone who doesn't have dominance issues and the need to control.

Rod needs to "step-up" and tell his son just like it is. Be a real man, Rod! When something makes you uncomfortable and you think it's wrong, then it most likely is.—Disappointed in New York

DEAR DISAPPOINTED: I wrote that the son's "discipline" (flipping Junior on his back and scolding him) was a terrible way to correct a dog.

But we'll have to agree to disagree on how the owner's dad should approach the situation. Confronting his grown son and making him angry could cause the son's treatment of Junior to become worse, if he is in fact harming the dog. I am with you on the possibility of abuse—Junior's behavior is a big warning sign—but unfortunately there was no clear evidence given in the original letter.

You quite rightly point out that if something feels wrong, then it most likely is. If the father feels this way, he needs to investigate further.

■ ■ ■

Send your tips, questions and comments to Paw's Corner, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475, or e-mail them to [pawscorner@hotmail.com](mailto:pawscorner@hotmail.com).

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# April Fools' burger and fries surprise

This April Fools' Day "Burger and Fries" is such a surprise that no one will believe their eyes. Make this whimsical treat that looks like hamburgers and French fries but is actually a yummy dessert. While you're in the spirit of the day, make another favorite April Fools' activity, "Fake Spills." Watch my online video at [www.donnasday.com](http://www.donnasday.com) for directions to make your own fake spills. (Click the front door on the homepage to find the "April Fools Activity" video.)

In the meantime, prepare this "Burger and Fries" recipe for an April 1st caper or for a birthday party any time of year. Kids and adults will love the treat.

## For 10 servings, you'll need:

- 10 clean, small tuna or pineapple cans, greased and with labels removed. (Be sure there are no sharp edges on the cans.)
- 1 box standard yellow-cake mix
- 1 standard brownie mix baked to 1-inch thickness on a rimmed cookie sheet
- 2 tablespoons corn syrup
- red and yellow frosting
- sesame seeds
- 2 kiwis, peeled and sliced
- sugar-cookie dough (homemade or prepared mix from the refrigerated section of your grocery store)

## BURGERS

Prepare and spoon cake batter into cans, filling each can half-full. Bake according to cupcake directions on the box, adding a few minutes to baking time. (Use any extra batter to make cupcakes.) When slightly cool, ease cake out of cans and cool completely. Slice open each "bun"; brush the tops of the "buns" with corn syrup, then sprinkle with sesame seeds.

Use one of the cans as a cookie cutter to cut round "burgers" out of the baked brownies. Set each cutout on the bottom half of the "buns." Drizzle some red and

yellow frosting on the brownie to look like ketchup and mustard. Place sliced kiwi alongside to resemble pickles.

## FRENCH FRIES

Make 1-inch accordion folds on a sheet of heavy aluminum foil and set on a cookie sheet with folds slightly spread apart. Slice and mold cookie dough into 2-inch strips to resemble French fries. Set each strip in a groove on the foil. Bake according to recipe directions until golden. Cool slightly on cooling rack, then remove from foil while still warm for best results.

Serve with red frosting "ketchup" on a platter with the "burgers."

■ ■ ■

Donna Erickson's award-winning television series "Donna's Day" airs on public television nationwide. Visit [www.donnasday.com](http://www.donnasday.com) to find out when it airs on your local PBS station and to sign up for Donna's e-newsletter.

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## Life &amp; Style

# Officials: Madonna trying to adopt Malawian child

**BLANTYRE, Malawi (AP)**—Madonna is planning to adopt a second child from Malawi, officials said Thursday, but questions have already been raised over whether the newly divorced pop star will face obstacles because of her single mom status.

An official at the Malawi welfare department said Madonna, who is 50 and a mother of three, had filed adoption papers in the southern African country. Another person in Malawi close to the case said Madonna would be there this weekend and a court could hear her adoption case as soon as Monday.

A U.S. government official

confirmed that an adoption bid by Madonna, an American, was under way.

They all spoke on condition of anonymity due to the sensitivity of the subject.

Madonna spokeswoman Liz Rosenberg in New York would not comment.

Years ago, the singer was accused of using her celebrity status to circumvent Malawian adoption laws when she adopted her son David—allegations she denies. That adoption became final in 2008.

Now there are concerns that rules again will be broken for Madonna, as Malawi also does

not approve adoptions for single or divorced parents. However, the Malawi welfare official said each case is considered on its merit.

Malawian law is fuzzy on foreign adoptions. Regulations stipulate only that prospective parents undergo an 18- to 24-month assessment period in Malawi, a rule already bent when Madonna was allowed to take David to London.

Madonna met David in October 2006 at a Malawian orphanage. His mother had died and his father was unable to care for him. She and her then-husband, British filmmaker Guy Ritchie, took David to their London

home but it took two years for the adoption to become official.

The adoption was a trying process for the singer, who said the criticism hurt. Some children's advocacy groups accused her of breaking up a family. They claimed the child, who is now 3, should have remained in Malawi and the star should have instead offered to support his father.

Rumors that Madonna wanted to adopt a girl from Malawi have been circulating for some time. But the first official hint came from the star herself last week.

In an interview in Malawi's leading daily *The Nation*, the singer said she was considering another adoption but would only do it if she had "the support of the Malawian people and government."

Before David's adoption was finalized in May last year, a Malawi welfare official paid the family two home visits and wrote in a report that Madonna was a "perfect mum."

If the adoption goes through, she would become a single mother of four. She also has an 8-year-old son, Rocco, with Ritchie and a 12-year-old daughter, Lourdes, from a previous relationship.



In this April 19, 2007 file photo, Madonna holds David Banda in her arms in Mchinji, Malawi. AP

## Pop, country singer Dan Seals dies of cancer

**NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)**—Dan Seals, who was England Dan in the pop duo England Dan and John Ford Coley and later had a successful country career, has died of complications from cancer. He was 61.

Longtime manager Tony Gottlieb said Seals, diagnosed with lymphoma two years ago, died Wednesday night at his daughter's home in Nashville.

With England Dan and John Ford Coley, Seals had hits including "I'd Really Love to See You Tonight" and "Nights Are Forever," both in 1976. His country hits in the '80s and '90s included "Bop," "You Still Move Me," "Love on Arrival," and a duet with Marie Osmond, "Meet Me in Montana."



Seals

"I've loved to play and sing from the moment I knew what it was," he told *The Associated Press* in 1992.

Seals, who is survived by his wife, four children and seven grandchildren, was in hospice care when he died.

"He was very positive," said Gottlieb, Seals' manager for about 30 years. "He participated in several clinical trials to assist with research on this type of lymphoma."

## Man pleads not guilty to stalking Shawn Johnson

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—A man who police say had guns, duct tape and love letters in his car when he tried to jump a security fence in an attempt to meet "Dancing With the Stars" contestant Shawn Johnson pleaded not guilty Thursday to stalking and other charges.

Robert O'Ryan was arrested Tuesday at the studio where the ABC show is produced. Authorities say they found loaded guns, duct tape and love letters in a car he drove from Florida to meet Johnson, a 17-year-old Olympic gymnast.

The 34-year-old O'Ryan was charged Thursday with one felony count of stalking and two misdemeanor counts of carrying a loaded gun in a vehicle. His bail was raised from \$35,000 to \$220,000, and a trial date of April 27 was set.

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Johnson

hicle. Wearing a red shirt and khaki pants, with long brown hair to his waist and a beard, O'Ryan tried to hide behind his attorney as he was arraigned in Los Angeles Superior Court.

## Selleck unveils traveling memorial exhibits in DC

**WASHINGTON (AP)**—Emmy-award winner Tom Selleck visited the National Mall in Washington on Thursday to launch new exhibits for a traveling museum honoring Vietnam veterans.

The 64-year-old actor joined members of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund as they unveiled exhibits for The Wall

That Heals, a 45-foot aluminum trailer that travels across the country to people who may not have the opportunity to visit the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington.

During the ceremony, Selleck thanked veterans and stressed the importance of remembering the Vietnam War.

"That war taught the Ameri-

can people a lesson that we can and we must honor our warriors, no matter what our feelings about the war," Selleck said.

The museum, which has been on the road since 1996, already features a removable half-scale replica of the original Vietnam Veterans Memorial wall. This is the first time new exhibits have been introduced.

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**NOW SHOWING**



### Monsters vs. Aliens

Friday 4:05 7:00 9:35  
 Saturday 1:05 4:05 7:00 9:35  
 Sunday 1:05 4:05 7:00  
 Mon and Tues 4:05 7:00

**Reese Witherspoon, Hugh Laurie**  
 Action, Comedy, Animated • Rated PG

### Synopsis

When a space capsule crash lands onto Susan Reynold's car she's doused by its alien liquid contents, Quantonium which turn her into a 48 foot 11 inch giant. Her wedding thwarted, she's captured by the military and sent to a secret government facility, where she meets fellow monsters Dr. Cockroach, Ph.D., the gelatinous BOB, The Missing Link, and Insectosaurus.



### The Haunting in Connecticut

Friday 4:20 7:25 9:45  
 Saturday 1:20 4:20 7:25 9:45  
 Sunday 1:20 4:20 7:25  
 Mon and Tues 4:20 7:25

**Virginia Madsen, Brooklyn Proulx**  
 Thriller, Supernatural • Rated PG 13

### Synopsis

Based on a true story of one family's terrifying, real-life encounter with the dark forces of the supernatural. When the Campbell family moves to upstate Connecticut, they soon learn that their charming Victorian home has a disturbing history. Not only was the house a transformed funeral parlor where inconceivable acts occurred, but the owner's clairvoyant son Jonah served as a demonic messenger, providing a gateway for spiritual entities to crossover.



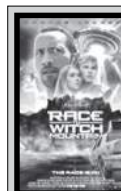
### Knowing

Friday 4:10 7:10 9:30  
 Saturday 1:15 4:10 7:10 9:30  
 Sunday 1:15 4:10 7:10  
 Mon and Tues 4:10 7:10

**Nicolas Cage, Rose Byrne**  
 Action, Thriller • Rated PG 13

### Synopsis

In 1958, as part of the dedication ceremony for a new elementary school, a group of students is asked to draw pictures to be stored in a time capsule. But one mysterious girl fills her sheet of paper with rows of apparently random numbers instead. Fifty years later, a new generation of students examines the capsule's contents and the girl's cryptic message ends up in the hands of young Caleb Koestler.



### Race To Witch Mountain

Friday 4:15 7:30 9:40  
 Saturday 1:10 4:15 7:30 9:40  
 Sunday 1:10 4:15 7:30  
 Mon and Tues 4:15 7:30

**Dwayne Johnson, Ciarán Hinds**  
 Action, Adventure • Rated PG



### When I Met You

Friday 4:25 7:20 9:50  
 Saturday 1:30 4:25 7:20 9:50  
 Sunday 1:30 4:25 7:20  
 Mon and Tues 4:25 7:20

**KC Concepcion, Richard Gutierrez**  
 Romance, Drama • Rated NR



### The Last House On The Left

Friday 4:30 7:15 9:55  
 Saturday 1:25 4:30 7:15 9:55  
 Sunday 1:25 4:30 7:15  
 Mon and Tues 4:30 7:15

**Garret Dillahunt, Rhys Corio**  
 Horror • Rated R



### Watchmen

Friday 4:00 7:05 10:15  
 Saturday 1:00 4:00 7:05 10:15  
 Sunday 1:00 4:00 7:05  
 Mon and Tues 4:00 7:05

**Malin Akerman, Billy Crudup**  
 Action, Adventure • Rated R

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# 2 roadies from Spears tour arrested in Pittsburgh

**PITTSBURGH** (AP)—Two employees of a contractor working for Britney Spears' concert tour were arrested early Thursday morning after police said they assaulted officers who tried to break up a fight.

Rockey Lee Dickey Jr., 34, of Manhattan Beach, Calif., was hitting another man on a

city sidewalk when a patrol car drove by at around 1 a.m., police said. Dickey swung at one of the officers who intervened, knocking off his hat, and had to be subdued with a Taser, police said.

Police said Alex Montes, 23, of Valencia, Calif., put one of the officers in a headlock.

The officers were not hurt.

Both men were being held in the Allegheny County Jail on assault and public drunkenness charges. It was not immediately known if they had attorneys.

The alleged victim, identified only as a 30-year-old Pittsburgh man, was taken to a hospital for facial injuries.

Spears' Web site posted a statement saying the two men worked for a company that was contracted to provide road crew service, not for Spears or her tour.

"The two individuals have since been dismissed by their employer. The ... tour does not support or tolerate this type of behavior," the statement said.

## Survivor winner seeks release from US prison

**PROVIDENCE, R.I.** (AP)—"Survivor" winner Richard Hatch wants a judge to free him immediately from a federal prison for evading taxes on the \$1 million prize he won on the debut season of the CBS reality series, according to court documents.

Hatch, who is representing himself, filed the request Tuesday in U.S. District Court in Providence. He is now serving a four-year and three-month sentence at a prison in West Virginia.

The reality TV star argued in a 43-page memo that he should be released because he is innocent, was represented by ineffective lawyers and that a judge improperly calculated his prison sentence.

"Hatch's portrayal on 'Survivor' and his media-concocted caricature as villainous and manipulative continue to unfairly bleed into legal proceedings and wield unjust influence," Hatch said.

U.S. District Court Judge William Smith has not yet ruled on the request.

Prosecutors will respond to Hatch's motion in the coming weeks, said Tom Connell, a spokesman for the U.S. Attorney's office.

In October, the U.S. Supreme Court refused to consider Hatch's appeal.

Hatch is best known for the scheming that helped him divide and conquer fellow contestants and shedding his clothes on the CBS reality TV show. Late night comedian David Letterman famously dubbed him the "the fat naked guy."

Since his trial, Hatch has claimed the show was rigged.

Hatch attorney's told a judge outside the presence of the jury that Hatch did not pay income taxes on his \$1 million prize because he caught producers sneaking food to other contestants. When Hatch confronted them about the cheating, show officials offered to pay his incomes taxes if he won.

In his recent filing, Hatch faulted his attorneys for not making that argument to the jury and failing to call other witnesses whom Hatch said could have verified the deal.

CBS has long denied Hatch's cheating allegations.

## Another contestant eliminated from 'American Idol'



**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—Michael Sarver is proof that "American Idol" apparently is not rigged. The 27-year-old oil-rig worker from Jasper, Texas, made his last-ditch effort by belting out "Ain't Too Proud to Beg." But it just wasn't slick enough for the judges to overrule the votes of viewers.

Judge Simon Cowell told the married father of two children: "Michael, you're going home. Sorry."

Nine contestants remain on the Fox network's singing competition.

In this image released by Fox, "American Idol" contestant Michael Sarver is shown.

AP

## Cheesy book takes prize for year's oddest title

**LONDON** (AP)—A heavy-weight study of the future of soft cheese has won Britain's annual competition to find the year's oddest book title.

"The 2009-2014 World Outlook for 60-milligram Containers of Fromage Frais," by Philip M. Parker won the Diagram Prize, awarded Friday by trade magazine The Bookseller.

The runner-up was primate study "Baboon Metaphysics," by Dorothy L. Cheney and Robert M. Seyfarth.

Horace Bent, who runs the award, said Parker's volume was

a surprise winner given the competition from racier-sounding finalists like "Curbside Consultation of the Colon"—a medical manual—and hobby handbook "Strip and Knit With Style."

Bent said "Fromage Frais" was a worthy winner that had "turned the supermarket chiller into the petri dish of literary innovation."

Fromage frais—literally "fresh cheese"—is a dairy product that originated in France and has a similar consistency to sour cream. The book is a 188-page study of the global retail market for the product. Parker's book is pub-

lished by Icon Group and sells for a hefty \$795 (euro589.)

The Diagram Prize was founded in 1978, and the winner is decided by public vote.

This year's other finalists were "The Large Sieve and its Applications" and "Techniques for Corrosion Monitoring."

Previous winners include "Bombproof Your Horse," "Living With Crazy Buttocks" and "People Who Don't Know They're Dead: How They Attach Themselves to Unsuspecting Bystanders and What to Do About It."

## ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

### Studio: Sean Penn to play Larry in 'Stooges' movie

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Sean Penn is going slapstick. The studio MGM says the double Oscar winner has signed on to play Larry in the Farrelly brothers' big-screen update of "The Three Stooges." Jim Carrey was "in negotiations" for the role of Curly, said MGM spokesman Grey Munford. The studio first featured the stooges in a series of shorts and features beginning in 1933. Munford would not confirm reports that Benicio Del Toro will play Moe. He said said filming begins this fall on the comedy, which is expected to be released in 2010. The casting of a serious actor like Penn in the assuredly goofy comedy isn't such a stretch: The actor launched his storied career as goofball Jeff Spicoli in "Fast Times at Ridgemont High."

### Ex-Paramount exec Wayne Lewellen dies at 65

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—Wayne Lewellen, the former longtime head of distribution for Paramount Pictures, has died at age 65. Todd Vradenburg, Lewellen's friend and a member of the Will Rogers Motion Picture Pioneer Foundation, says Lewellen died Thursday at his home in Los Angeles after a short battle with cancer. A publicist

says Lewellen began his career in his native Texas with Warner Bros. in 1965. He joined Paramount in 1973, becoming distribution president for Paramount's Motion Picture Group in the mid-1990s. During his tenure, he was responsible for distribution of some of Hollywood's most successful franchises, including "Titanic," "Forrest Gump," "Top Gun," "Beverly Hills Cop" and "Star Trek." Lewellen left the studio in 2005.

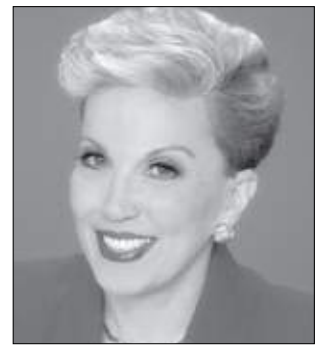
### Phil Spector murder retrial in hands of LA jury

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—The murder case against music producer Phil Spector is in the hands of a California jury again. The case was turned over to the Los Angeles Superior Court jury Thursday after the prosecution concluded a rebuttal to the defense closing arguments. Spector is being retried on a second-degree murder charge in the shooting of actress Lana Clarkson six years ago. His first trial ended in a jury deadlock in 2007 with the majority favoring conviction. This time the jury has the option of considering a lesser charge of involuntary manslaughter. Clarkson died of a gunshot fired inside her mouth as she sat in the foyer of Spector's home. The 40-year-old star of the cult film "Barbarian Queen" had met Spector hours earlier at her job as a hostess at the House of Blues.

# Material teen begrudges her friends' new clothes

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

**DEAR ABBY:** I am a 14-year-old girl in high school. My family does not have a lot of money, but a lot of my friends' families do. (We have some money, but it's only enough to get by.) When my friends come to school with new clothes or concert tickets, I feel resentful because I can't afford them. I constantly compare myself to other girls and feel jealous of everyone around me. Is there anything I can do to combat this?



*Dear Abby*

JEALOUS OF EVERYONE IN UPSTATE NEW YORK

**DEAR JEALOUS:** I can think of few things so self-defeating as constantly comparing oneself to other people. No matter what income bracket a person is in, there will always be individuals who have more. Your worth as a person has nothing to do with what's in your closet, what's on your back or whether you can afford concert tickets.

One way to start feeling better about yourself would be to make a list of the qualities that make you special. You are obviously intelligent. Are you also a loyal friend? Are you sensitive to the feelings of other people? These important qualities will outlast any fashion fad—and the popularity of most music groups, too. The more time you spend dwelling on the important qualities you have, the less time you'll waste being preoccupied with the material things you don't.

■ ■ ■ ■

**DEAR ABBY:** I have been living with a terrible secret for the past five years. I don't love my older son. He is very difficult and has been since infancy. Don't get me wrong—I'd jump in front of a bus to save him—but I don't like him.

I have a degree in psychology and have taught child development. I have taken parenting classes and read every book that's available on hard-to-manage children. But I have yet to find something that can help me, and I feel terribly alone. My husband tries, but he doesn't understand what it's like because he is mostly at work.

I am involved in parenting groups, playgroups, etc., but the other mothers all seem to be doing everything "better" than I am, and I have never heard any other mom admit to having negative feelings toward her kid.

What makes it worse is I adore my younger son and feel a special bond with him. I know this must be awful for the older boy because I'm sure he senses it, no matter how hard I try to hide it. But I don't know how to change what I feel. Abby, how can I change things? I desperately want to be the kind of mother my son deserves.

ASHAMED IN CALIFORNIA

**DEAR ASHAMED:** Nowhere in your letter did you mention that you have taken your older son to a child psychiatrist for any sort of an evaluation. Children who are "very difficult" can sometimes have a physical or psychological disorder. There may even be a support group for you comprised of other parents who are experiencing the same feelings that you have.

It is important that you seek professional help for both of you. Your son may have a disorder, but until you find out the cause of the behavior that makes him "unlovable," there will be no help for either of you.

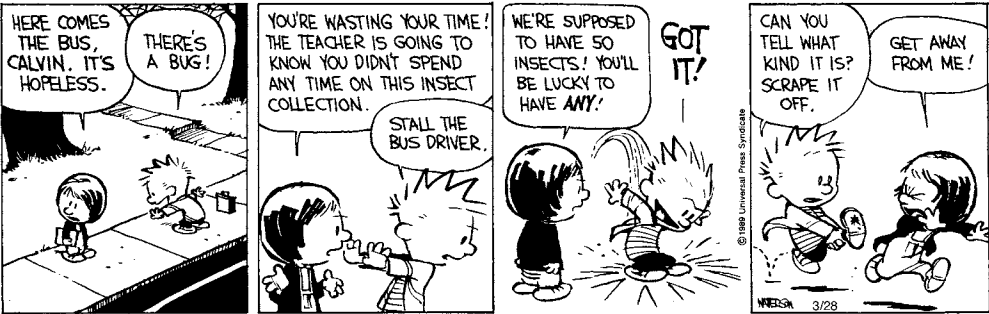
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes



By Bill Waterson

Garfield®



By Jim Davis

Adam@home



By Bryan Basset

The Duplex



By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 What the Old Woman in a Shoe fed her kids

6 Turkish officials

11 Do a slow burn

12 Certain loops

14 Long garment

15 Clan pattern

16 Blackbird

17 Totally

19 Tikkanen of hockey

20 Super Bowl prize

22 Oktoberfest quaff

23 Understand, in sci-fi jargon

24 Just knows

26 French region near Belgium

28 Wanted-poster letters

30 "Told ya!"

31 Priests

35 Not slouching

39 Unctuous

40 Guffaw

42 — gin fizz

43 Sch.

44 Michener

46 Homer Simpson's dad

47 "The Joy Luck Club" writer

49 Himalayan nation

51 Crescent-shaped

52 In a contemptible way

53 Battling factions

54 In other words, to Caesar

DOWN

1 Propellered

2 Tweak

3 Mel of Coopers-town

4 Siamese

5 Red dye

6 Rack, in a sense

7 Target

8 Perp. to vert.

9 Aft

10 Time

11 Muffler

13 Indy Jones' bugaboo

18 Carte lead-in

21 Too bright

23 No stay-at-homes

25 Schuss

27 "Golly!"

29 One-seeded fruits

31 Fossil resin

32 Acid-test paper

33 Comic Boosler

34 Kenny G's instrument

36 Cheers up

37 Blue hue

38 Infinitesimal

41 Synagogue VIP

44 London gallery

45 Roe provider

48 Economists' subject

50 Work with

Solution time: 27 mins.

Yesterdays answer 3-28

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Julia Stiles, 28; Vince Vaughn, 39; Reba McEntire, 54; Dianne Wiest, 61

**Happy Birthday:** You will feel anxious if you do not take control. This is a time of questioning the past and making adjustments that will help you fulfill your future dreams, hopes and wishes. Stay focused and on top of your game and success will be yours. Your numbers are 6, 10, 18, 22, 26, 30, 43

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** A lesson well learned will prove valuable now. It will be amazing how easily you slip through opposition and criticism by staying calm and focusing on what you have to get done. It's all about accomplishment. \*\*\*

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** Don't be afraid to instigate change if that's what's required. If you really want to get things happening, do so quietly, behind the scenes. By taking charge in a humble manner, you will make an impression. \*\*\*

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** If you can manage to hide what's bothering you, it will be easier to get things done your way. Don't give anyone the upper hand because you cannot keep a secret. Love is in the stars, so a little time with someone you care for will do you both some good. \*\*\*

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Consider the work involved before you offer someone your assistance. You may end up taking on a lot more aggravation, leading to an upset in a relationship you cherish. Instead, take a pass. \*\*\*

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** Stick to what you know and don't give in to someone trying to convince you to do something else. A past partner may try to engage you in activity that may not be legitimate or that will cost you too much. \*\*

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** Money may be in jeopardy if you are too willing to give to someone asking for help. Offer advice instead of cash. It may cause a ruffle in your relationship but, in the end, you will be ahead on all counts. \*\*\*\*\*

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Impulsive spending will set you back. You mustn't lend, borrow or donate if you want to get ahead financially. Concentrate on a relationship with someone you care about or a creative project that you are intent on getting off the ground. \*\*\*

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** You need to be inspired and, sitting around home with someone who is negative or is not contributing to your mental or emotional growth, will not do you any good. Participate in community or networking groups. You will soon find your niche and can move in a more creative, lucrative direction. \*\*\*

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** You will find peace of mind sticking close to someone you love or who inspires you. Travel or dealing with difficult people will lead to arguments and upset. Minor mishaps and injuries are apparent. \*\*\*

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Uncertainty will leave you questioning what

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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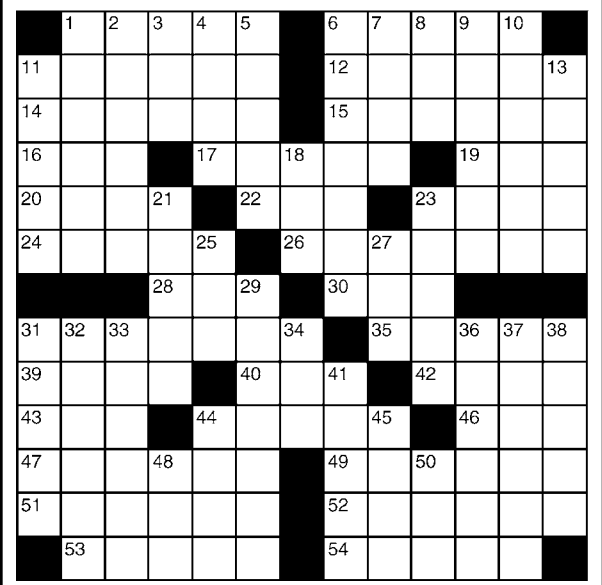
you are doing. Don't let others lead you to believe that you should do things differently. Avoid any controversy that may cause you to give too much of your time or money when you shouldn't. \*\*

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** You have some great opportunities and a good mind to put two and two together in order to come up with ways to get ahead financially. An extra source of income will come in handy. Someone you met a long time ago will offer you something tangible now. \*\*\*\*

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** Talks will lead to accomplishment. Utilize your persuasive ways in order to convince others to give you what you want. Your strength of character will work wonders for you professionally and personally. \*\*\*

**Birthday Baby:** You are possessive, passionate and progressive. You are charming and engaging, forceful and determined to get your way. You are popular but stubborn.

Eugenia's Web sites: [astroadvice.com](http://astroadvice.com) for fun, [eugenialast.com](http://eugenialast.com) for confidential consultations

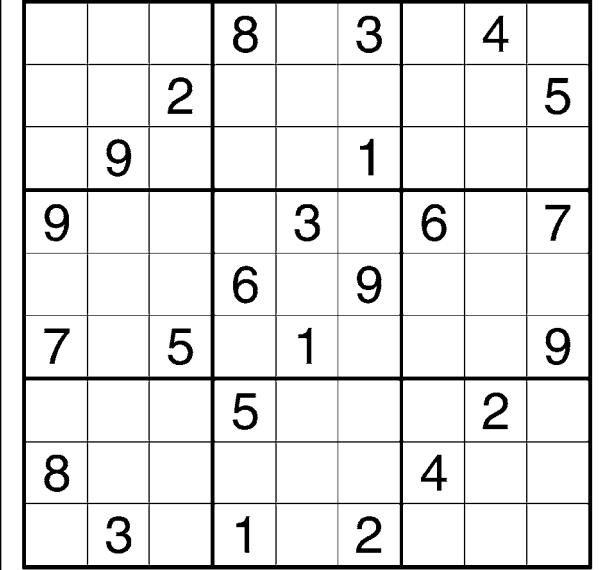


STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5951! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

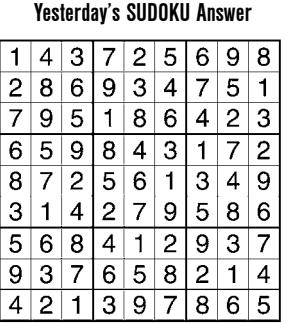


Difficulty Level ★★★★★

3/28

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.



Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

3/27

WONDERWORD By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

FLANNEL PAJAMAS Solution: 7 letters

E P W P N E S T L E T O P S S  
C R L A Z E N R H T O L C L N  
O I I T R C U I W A R P U A G  
Z N E T O M G H T O E M S C I  
Y T L E T W G S B R B L H K S  
G S I R M A L E A E I F Y P E  
G R T N R S E C R G F M L S D  
A E X M K H H A H E G A Z N E  
B T E A T I E T E L I Y I O L  
U N T S L W W O S D T W P O Y  
T I N D P E I R O D N S P Z T  
T W R E I U R L O U N G E E S  
O E E G V E N I L C E R R E O  
N L H T N O T T C I R B A F  
S T Y A R N W O G T H G I N T

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Attire, Baggy, Buttons, Children, Cloth, Cotton, Cozy, Cuddle, Cushy, Designs, Fabric, Fiber, Garment, Knit, Laze, Lightweight, Loose, Lounge, Nestle, Nightgown, Pattern, Plaid, Prints, Recline, Relax, Rest, Robe, Saggy, Shirt, Slack, Sleepwear, Slumber, Snooze, Snuggle, Soft, Spun, Style, Textile, Tops, Trim, Twill, Unwind, Warm, Warp, Wash, Winter, Woven, Yarn, Zipper

Yesterday's Answer: Hollywood

We listened to your request! TREASURY #9 is the first ever Wonderword book containing only 20 x 20 puzzles, with 15 of these large puzzles. To order, send check or money order for \$10.95 each plus \$3.25 p&h (\$14.20 total each). U.S. funds only for the first volume. \$1.50 p&h for each additional volume. To Wonderword, Universal Press Syndicate, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, Mo. 64106 or call toll-free 1-800-942-5483. Order online at [upuzzles.com](http://upuzzles.com).







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• 5-Liner	<b>\$35</b>
• 3-Liner with picture	<b>\$45</b>
• 5-Liner with picture	<b>\$55</b>

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#### Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:  
- Saipan Tribune: All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

### CANCELLATION

#### Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

### REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

### CHECK YOUR ADS

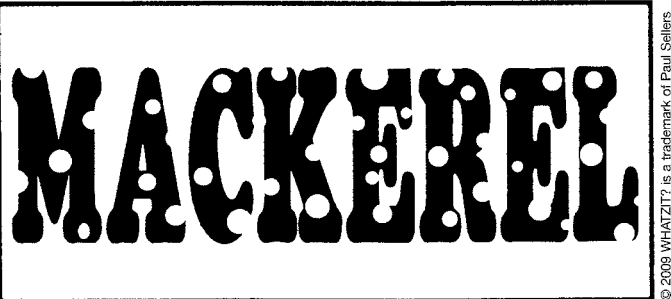
Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



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WHATZIT Solution: Holy mackerel!

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# 235-NEWS



# Fields' baskets send Pitt past Xavier



**BOSTON** (AP)—

Levance Fields gave Pittsburgh the lead with a 3-pointer with 50 seconds left, then scored off a steal as the Panthers advanced to the regional finals for the first time in 35 years with a 60-55 win over Xavier.

Top-seeded Pitt (31-4) trailed 54-52 before its point guard connected from long range. Then DeJuan Blair poked the ball away from B.J. Raymond and Fields picked it up and went in for the layup with 23 seconds to go.

Sam Young led Pitt with 19 points, Fields had 14, and Blair had 10 points and 17 rebounds in the East semifinal victory. The Panthers overcame an eight-point halftime deficit.

The last time Pitt was in a regional final was in 1974 when it lost to eventual national champion North Carolina State and star David Thompson, 100-72.

Fourth-seeded Xavier (27-8) was led by Raymond with 15 points and Derrick Brown with 14.

Pitt plays Saturday against third-seeded Villanova for a berth in the Final Four.

Panthers coach Jamie Dixon made it to the round of eight for the first time in his six years at the helm after losing in his other two trips to the round of 16. Xavier fell short in its bid for a third berth in the regional finals in six years.



Pittsburgh guard Levance Fields (2) reacts after stealing the ball and scoring against Xavier in the closing minute of the second half in a men's NCAA tournament regional semifinal college basketball game in Boston, Thursday, March 26, 2009.

## Villanova 77, Duke 54

At Boston, Dante Cunningham scored 14 points with 11 rebounds and third-seeded Villanova beat Duke for the first time in more than 50 years, taking advantage of the Blue Devils' poor shooting to post a 77-54 victory and advance to the NCAA regional final.

The Wildcats (29-7) will play Big East rival Pittsburgh (31-4), the top seed in the East, on Saturday for a trip

to the Final Four.

Duke (30-7), which spent a week at No. 1 in the nation earlier this season, failed to reach the round of eight for the fifth consecutive year.

Kyle Singler scored 15 and Jon Scheyer had 13 for the second-seeded Blue Devils. But Scheyer and Gerald Henderson combined to make just four of 32 attempts as Duke shot a season-

low 26.7 percent from the floor.

## WEST REGIONAL Connecticut 72, Purdue 60

At Glendale, Arizona, after cruising through the first two rounds of the NCAA tournament, Connecticut found itself in trouble for the first time.

Thanks to Hasheem Thabeet, the

top-seeded Huskies weren't in trouble for long.

Thabeet, the Big East player of the year, scored 15 points, had 15 rebounds and blocked four shots, and Connecticut overcame a sluggish first half to defeat Purdue, 72-60, in the NCAA West Regional semifinals.

One day after a Yahoo! Sports report alleged UConn committed NCAA re-

cruting violations, the Huskies (30-4) reached the regional finals for the fourth time since 2002.

Coach Jim Calhoun and the Huskies had won their first two NCAA tourney games by an average of 41 points, but they struggled to score against the defense-oriented Boilermakers.

UConn jumped out to an early 11-point lead, then went cold and let the fifth-seeded Boilermakers (27-10) claw back into the game.

Leading 30-25 at halftime, the Huskies turned to the 7-foot-3 Thabeet in the second half. Thabeet scored Connecticut's first eight points of the second half, then blocked a shot to set up a fastbreak layup by A.J. Price, who scored 10 of his 15 points after halftime.

## Missouri 102, Memphis 91

At Glendale, Arizona, a career night by J.T. Tiller put Missouri one win away from its first trip to the Final Four. Memphis' 27-game winning streak, meanwhile, is history.

Tiller scored a career-high 23 points - 15 more than his season average - and Missouri held off Memphis' frantic rally for a 102-91 win in the semifinals of the West Regional.

Third-seeded Missouri led by 24 points four minutes into the second half, then saw Memphis close within six with 2:14 to play. Free throws put it away for Missouri.

Dynamic point guard Tyreke Evans scored 33 for Memphis (33-4). The second-seeded Tigers shot only 18-for-32 from the foul line—last year, a poor showing at the foul line cost them dearly in an overtime championship game loss to Kansas.

Missouri (31-6) faces No. 1 seed Connecticut for the West title on Saturday.

# Tejada gets year probation for misleading Congress



**WASHINGTON** (AP)—

The prosecutor's words were delivered in the matter known as "The United States of America vs. Miguel O. Tejada," spoken during Thursday's 23-minute hearing in which the Houston Astros shortstop was sentenced to one year of probation for misleading Congress. The message - famous or not, you must tell the truth—also could be interpreted as a warning to another baseball star, Roger Clemens.

His case, involving sworn testimony to the House of Representatives, is currently before a grand jury in the very same federal courthouse where Tejada appeared.

"People have to know that when Congress asks questions, it's serious business," Assistant U.S. Attorney Steven Durham told the court. "And if you don't tell the truth—and we can prove you haven't told the truth—then there will be accountability."

Congress referred Tejada to the Justice Department in January 2008, a little more than a year before it asked that Clemens be investigated to determine whether he lied when saying he never used performance-enhancing drugs.

Tejada was the All-Star sitting in court this day, his chin resting on his right hand while Durham talked.

Tejada was the past American League MVP receiving his punishment after pleading guilty last month and admitting he withheld information about an ex-teammate's use of performance-enhancing drugs when questioned in 2005 by congressional investigators.

"I take full responsibility for not answering the question," Tejada told U.S. Magistrate Judge Alan Kay.

Standing at a lectern facing Kay, Tejada spoke softly for less than a minute, the talented hands he normally uses to grip a bat or field ground balls stuffed in the pant pockets of his pinstriped, three-piece suit.

He apologized to Congress, to the court, to baseball fans—"especially the kids"—and added: "I learned a very important lesson."

Tejada is the first high-profile player convicted of a crime stemming from baseball's steroids era.

"What people are not entitled to do, your honor, is to provide untruthful or dishonest answers. No one has that right," Durham told the court. "Not the people who are well-known—and not the people who are unknown."

Tejada faced up to a year imprisonment and a fine up to \$100,000. But Kay followed the recommendation of prosecutors who said he deserved a lighter punishment, issuing a sentence of probation, 100 hours of community

service and a \$5,000 fine. Kay waived drug testing often required of other convicts on probation and said he wouldn't restrict the player's travel.

The plea deal is unlikely to affect Tejada's immigration status because green card-holders are not normally deportable unless the maximum possible sentence is more than one year in prison.

It was noted that the fine should not be a hardship for Tejada, entering the final season of a \$72 million, six-year contract with the Astros.

"I have no doubt of your sincerity, that you regret your actions," Kay told Tejada. "I commend you to follow the rules and conditions that have been set by the court and make sure you don't get in trouble again."

Mark Tuohey, one of three lawyers accompanying Tejada, told the court: "He realizes that in his profession he is, among other things, a role model."

Tejada has acknowledged he bought human growth hormone while playing for the Oakland Athletics, but said he threw the drugs away without using them, and prosecutors said during his February plea hearing they had no evidence to contradict that.

Tejada's case has its roots in the March 17, 2005, congressional hearings on steroids in baseball at which Mark McGwire refused "to talk about

the past," and Rafael Palmeiro—then Tejada's teammate with the Baltimore Orioles—juted a finger toward lawmakers and denied using drugs.

Palmeiro was suspended by baseball later that year after failing a drug test. That House panel looked into whether Palmeiro should be investigated for perjury; he said the positive test must have been caused by a tainted B-12 vitamin injection given to him by Tejada.

That led investigators to Tejada, who was questioned at a Baltimore hotel. He was not under oath, but court documents say he was advised "of the importance of providing truthful answers."

"If Congress or a representative of Congress asks somebody a question in their official capacity, that question must be answered truthfully. There are no options to prevaricate or withhold the truth or parts of the truth," Durham said Thursday.

"Sometimes the truth is quite unflattering," the prosecutor noted. "Sometimes it's embarrassing to people. But it is not optional."

According to court documents, Tejada told congressional staff "he had no knowledge of other players using or even talking about steroids or other banned substances." But in former Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell's 2007 report on drug use in baseball, Oakland outfielder Adam Piatt is

cited saying he discussed steroid use with Tejada and provided Tejada with testosterone and HGH. The report included copies of checks allegedly written by Tejada to Piatt.

That all led to Thursday.

Tejada flew to Washington from Florida on Wednesday night, leaving his team's spring training camp long enough to spend 1 1/2 hours in a courthouse. The Astros had a day off Thursday, so Tejada didn't miss an exhibition game or even a workout.

"We're happy that this issue is resolved," Astros general manager Ed Wade said in a statement issued by the team. "Miguel can now focus on baseball and direct all of his energy toward being a key member of the Astros. It was resolved the way Miguel and his representatives believed it would be, and we can now all move forward."

Tejada is batting .257 with one homer and three RBIs in 35 at-bats for the Astros in Grapefruit League action. He also played for the Dominican Republic team that flopped in the World Baseball Classic with a surprising first-round exit.

Tejada didn't stop to take questions on his way out Thursday, saying only, "Yes," when a reporter asked if he was relieved.

"He's looking forward," Tuohey said, "to playing ball."



# Bryant scores 30 points, Lakers beat Pistons



**AUBURN HILLS, Mich.** (AP)—Kobe Bryant had a reason to smile when he left The Palace for a change.

Bryant scored 30 points and helped the Los Angeles Lakers beat Detroit 92-77 Thursday night, snapping a nine-game losing streak on the Pistons' home court.

"It feels good to finally walk out of here with a win," said Bryant, who helped Los Angeles score the last 20 points of the third quarter to surge ahead for good.

Including three losses in the 2004 NBA finals, the Lakers hadn't won on the road against the Pistons since Jan. 8, 2002.

The Western Conference-leading Lakers earned their fourth straight victory to pull within a game of NBA-leading Cleveland, and five in a row on the road for a league-high 26 this season.

"One of our goals is to have the best record before the playoffs start to have home-court advantage," Lamar Odom acknowledged.

At this point, the once-mighty Pistons simply are hoping to make the playoffs.

They were without Allen Iverson (back), Richard Hamilton (groin) and Rasheed Wallace (calf) against the Lakers.

"They were short-handed," Lakers coach Phil Jackson said. "We should've won."

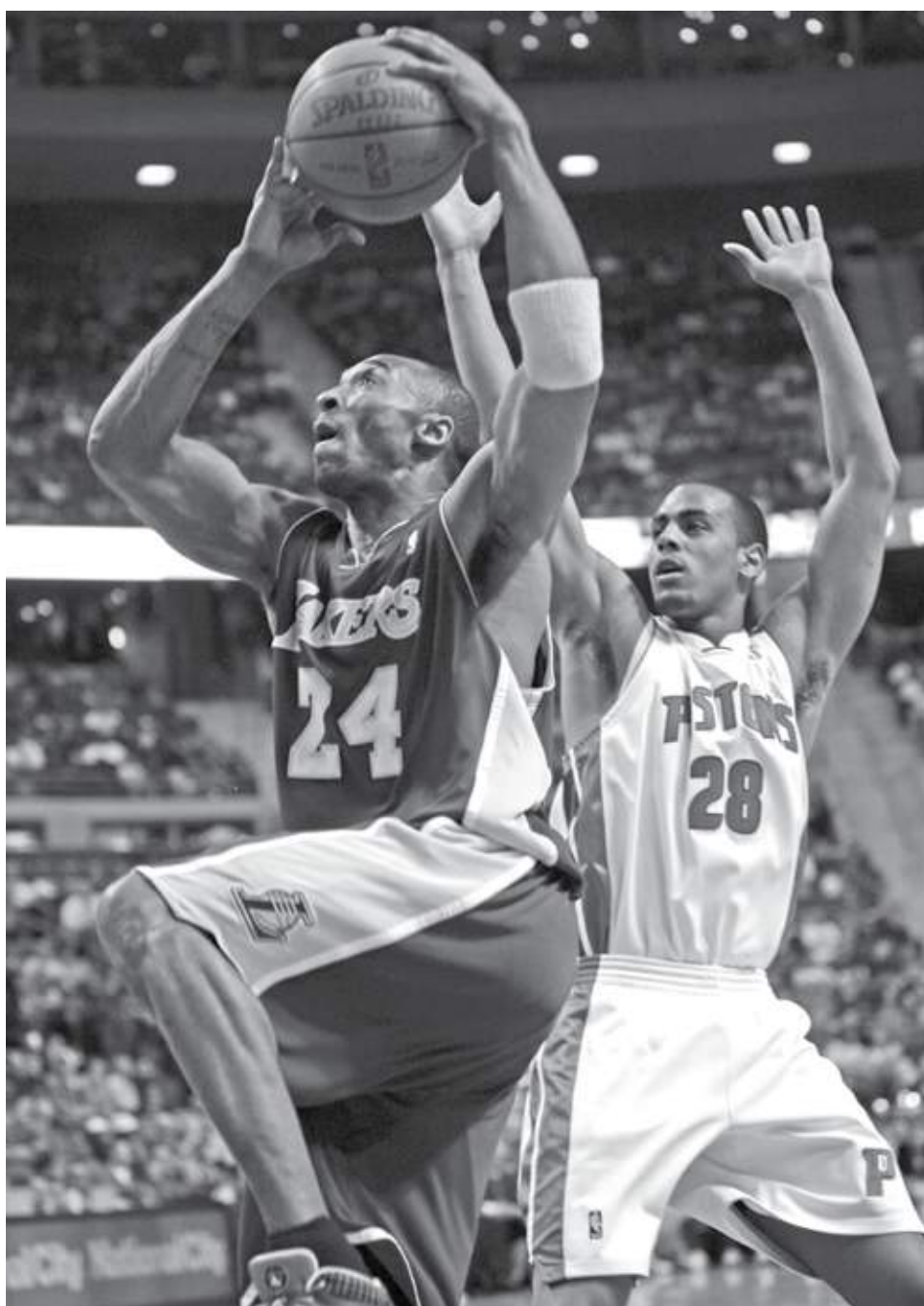
Hamilton is expected back on Saturday at Washington, where Wallace might also return, and the team hopes Iverson will be able to play next week.

"It's a psychological lift knowing they're going to return soon," coach Michael Curry said.

Detroit desperately needs the trio on the court to salvage some pride in a season that has steadily unraveled since trading Chauncey Billups to Denver for Iverson in November.

The Pistons lost their third straight game and seventh of nine, falling into a seventh-place tie with Chicago in the Eastern Conference. They're 18-19 at home and three games under .500 overall.

"They've had some trouble," Bryant said. "But when the playoffs come



Los Angeles Lakers guard Kobe Bryant, left, drives past Detroit Pistons guard Arron Afflalo in the first quarter of an NBA basketball game in Auburn Hills, Mich., Thursday, March 26, 2009.

around, I don't think anybody wants to play this team."

Detroit reserve Will Bynum had career highs with 25 points and 11 assists and helped his banged-up team outscore the

Lakers 30-14 in the second quarter to lead 42-39.

The Pistons built a 10-point lead early in the second half and were ahead by five midway through the third quarter when

Bryant made a layup and Trevor Ariza had consecutive putback dunks to spark a 20-0 run.

"We took Will Bynum out of the game and nobody else could do anything," Detroit's Tayshaun Prince said. "He's the reason we had the lead at the half and the reason we made that comeback in the second quarter."

"Once he came out—end of the ballgame."

Los Angeles looked as if it was going to rout the struggling Pistons when it led 25-12, marking a low first-quarter total for an opponent, but their Bynum-led bench dominated the second quarter.

The Lakers, though, ended any doubts about the outcome by outscoring Detroit 31-13 in the third quarter and coasted to victory.

Derek Fisher scored 15 points for the Lakers, and Odom and Pau Gasol each had 12 points.

"Those guys were playing well as a team and when they do that it's a lot easier for Kobe to pick his spots," Prince said.

Detroit's Antonio McDyess had 14 points—making him its only double-digit scorer other than Bynum—and 12 rebounds.

## Bulls 106 Heat 87

At Chicago, John Salmons scored 27 points, and the Bulls won for the sixth time in seven games to move into a seventh-place tie with Detroit in the Eastern Conference.

## Trail Blazers 129 Suns 109

At Portland, Ore., LaMarcus Aldridge scored a season-high 29 points and added 12 rebounds to help the Trail Blazers end Phoenix's winning streak at six.

# Tiger surges into contention at Bay Hill

**ORLANDO, Fla.** (AP)—In their own way, Jason Gore and Tiger Woods changed their fortunes Thursday at Bay Hill.

Gore was not seeing any results from an overhaul to his swing until he ran off three birdies over the final four holes for a 5-under 65 that gave him a one-shot lead in the Arnold Palmer Invitational.

Woods was in the water, in the trees and in a foul mood until he had eight consecutive one-putts—including four straight birdies—that put him in a good frame of mind with a 68 on a course where he has won five times as a pro.

"I was not hitting it well, and I had to scramble and grind it out and manage to score," Woods said. He managed just fine, taking only 24 putts in the first round after ranking 74th in putting out of 79 players at Doral two weeks ago.

Tim Herron, who won Bay Hill in a playoff 10 years ago, and Jeff Overton had a 66, while the group at 67 included the ever-present Nick Watney and Mark Wilson, who had reason to feel outclassed on the first tee but more than held his own.

Wilson was in the same group as Woods and Padraig Harrington, who have won five of the last six majors. Wilson has his own history with

Woods, having lost a late lead in 1992 when Woods rallied to win his second U.S. Junior Amateur.

But Wilson had the best day of the threesome. Harrington saved par from the water on the 18th for a 70.

"Scored best of the tree," Wilson said, a slight distinction. "I had a good time out there. I love playing with Tiger. The electricity and the energy on that first tee is something else with him."

Imagine the surge on the opening hole, when Woods had a difficult flop shot from about 30 yards that had to carry a bunker. Wilson wondered if Woods might begin his title defense at Bay Hill with a double bogey. Then he watched Woods' shot pitch about 6 feet from the hole and roll like a putt into the cup for birdie.

Woods hit a tee shot into the water at No. 6 for double bogey, was lucky to escape with pars at the turn and made four birdies on the back nine to get off to a good start.

The only other player at Bay Hill with such charisma is Palmer, the tournament host. Gore can attest to that.

He was 11 when his family went to

Pittsburgh one summer and Gore had his mother drive him to Latrobe Country Club. They walked into the pro shop and asked if the King was around, and before long Palmer drove up in a cart that looked like a tractor.

"He took a picture with us, signed a scorecard and he said, 'Son, I'm going to go hit balls. Would like to come watch?'" Gore said. "I sat right on the little slope right behind the first tee and watched Mr. Palmer hit balls for about 45 minutes. And from that point on, I knew I wanted to be a professional golfer."

Gore is a PGA Tour winner, but the golf hasn't gone so well lately.

He lost his PGA Tour card last year, then decided after Q-school to work with Mike Abbott and redo his swing. Gore wouldn't ordinarily make it to an event like the Arnold Palmer Invitational, but he received an exemption.

That was no accident.

Gore told Palmer last year at a corporate outing how much he had influenced his life. When he saw him earlier this month at Seminole, he thanked Palmer for the exemption. Palmer winked at him and replied, "I never forgot that story."

"The littlest things he does for a punk

dressed in surf clothes who was trespassing on his property changes lives," Gore said. "He's got that power, and that's what makes him the King. And that's why he's the greatest person to this game."

Woods is the greatest player of his generation, slowly building his way back into shape with the Masters around the corner. This is his third tournament since an eight-month layoff from knee surgery.

He hit the ball well at Doral and couldn't make a putt. On Thursday, it was a good thing he could make a few putts. Woods showed flashes of his notorious temper that had been missing the last two events.

"I didn't have it because I was hitting it so well," he said. "Today, I was not hitting it well."

But he saved par on three straight holes, began his birdie streak on the 11th and missed a pair of putts on the last two holes inside 12 feet scratch out a 68.

Not everyone was that fortunate.

Ryo Ishikawa, the 17-year-old from Japan, hit two balls in the water on the par-5 sixth and made a 9 on his way to a 76. Jim Furyk, who tumbled down the leaderboard in Tampa after the first round, opened with a 78. Fred Couples had an 80. Jason Day didn't finish, feeling so sick at the turn that he was driven off the course at the turn.

## Jets QB Clemens focused on winning job, not rumors



### FLORHAM PARK, N.J.

(AP)—Kellen Clemens is aware of all the critics who insist the New York Jets can't expect to win if they enter the season with him, Brett Ratliff and Erik Ainge as their only quarterbacks.

"It's the end of the world, right?" he said with a laugh Thursday. "I've heard it. Truth be told, I try not to listen to it, but some of it always leaks through. You've got a buddy back home who calls and says, 'Hey! ESPN just said, dah dah dah.'"

Most of the chatter surrounds the Jets' reported interest in Denver's Jay Cutler—if the Broncos decide to trade the disgruntled Pro Bowl quarterback, as he requested, after a rift with new coach Josh McDaniels.

"It's an interesting thing preparing to try to be a major contributor to a football team and there's always all the rumors that are floating around and, at times, can be distracting," Clemens said. "I'm not going to lie. I've heard about them, and it wasn't something where I was like, 'Oh, good. Jay'd be here. That would be great. We can hang out.' You try to ignore it."

Several teams, including the Jets, have contacted the Broncos about Cutler's availability, even though McDaniels reiterated at the NFL meetings earlier this week that Cutler is his quarterback and he'll do what he can to improve the relationship.

Meanwhile, new Jets coach Rex Ryan has told anyone who'll listen that he's comfortable with the quarterbacks he has on his roster, and they'll all have a fair chance to win the job this summer.

"Everyone seems to think we have major issues there," Ryan said at the NFL meetings. "I don't think the situation is what people think it is. I think we're going to be just fine."

But fueling the speculation that New York perhaps isn't completely sold on the trio is the fact that the Jets, who have the 17th overall pick next month, scheduled workouts with Kansas State's Josh Freeman and Southern California's Mark Sanchez.

"It certainly is a motivating thing to think myself and the other two guys in the locker room playing the position are getting overlooked in some ways," Clemens said.



TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
y-Boston	54	19	.740	-
Philadelphia	37	33	.529	15 1/2
New Jersey	30	41	.423	23
New York	28	43	.394	25
Toronto	26	45	.366	27

Southeast Division

y-Orlando	53	18	.746	-
Atlanta	42	30	.583	11 1/2
Miami	38	34	.528	15 1/2
Charlotte	31	40	.437	22
Washington	17	56	.233	37

Central Division

y-Cleveland	58	13	.817	-
Chicago	35	38	.479	24
Detroit	34	37	.479	24
Milwaukee	31	41	.431	27 1/2
Indiana	30	42	.417	28 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

San Antonio	47	24	.662	-
Houston	47	26	.644	1
New Orleans	44	26	.629	2 1/2
Dallas	43	28	.606	4
Memphis	17	53	.243	29 1/2

Northwest Division

Denver	46	26	.639	-
Portland	45	27	.625	1
Utah	44	27	.620	1 1/2
Oklahoma City	20	51	.282	25 1/2
Minnesota	20	52	.278	26

Pacific Division

y-L.A. Lakers	57	14	.803	-
Phoenix	40	32	.556	17 1/2
Golden State	25	47	.347	32 1/2
L.A. Clippers	18	54	.250	39 1/2
Sacramento	15	55	.214	41 1/2

y-clinched division

Yesterday's Games

L.A. Lakers 92, Detroit 77  
Chicago 106, Miami 87  
Portland 129, Phoenix 109

ARNOLD PALMER INVITATIONAL

FIRST ROUND

Jason Gore	65
Tim Herron	66
Jeff Overton	66
Sean O'Hair	67
Lee Janzen	67
Nick Watney	67
Mark Wilson	67
Stuart Appleby	67
Hunter Mahan	67
Skip Kendall	68
Chad Campbell	68
Daniel Chopra	68
Rocco Mediate	68
Tiger Woods	68
Brian Gay	68
J.J. Henry	68
Jerry Kelly	69
Kevin Na	69
Steve Lowery	69
Johnson Wagner	69
Heath Slocum	69
Ben Crane	70
Mathew Goggin	70
Tommy Armour III	70
George McNeill	70
Stewart Cink	70
Pat Perez	70
Kenny Perry	70
Ryuji Imada	70
Scott Verplank	70
Richard S. Johnson	70
Steve Flesch	70
John Senden	70
Webb Simpson	70
Vaughn Taylor	70
Harrison Frazar	70
Padraig Harrington	70

By the Associated Press

LOCAL SCORES

SML BUDWEISER STANDINGS

Ford Rangers	4	1
D-9ers	3	1
Rock Steady	3	1
Tanapag Falcons	3	1
Master Rangers	1	4
Korean Phoenix	0	3
Young Guns	0	3

SETTSU

From Page 28

the All-Stars in the first three minutes of the playoff canto. A Nakamori banked triple from the top of the key gave the Japanese their biggest lead, 61-42, entering the final two minutes of the game.

Nakamori finished with 16 points, while Tokimoto top-scored for Settsu with 21 markers.

Lia Rangamar led the All-Stars with 13 markers.

In the boys' 16-and-under finals, the Rays leaned on their 30-point production in the first and second quarters to seize control of the game early and ease past the Dolphins.

Southern was comfortably ahead by 29 points at halftime, 60-31, and MHS failed to make headway in the second half, allowing the Rays to take home the perpetual trophy.

Tristan Ecalnea had 23 markers for the Rays, while John Paul Vilanueva and Adrian Palacios also finished in double figures with 19 and 14 points, respectively.

Boys 16 Finals

**SSHS 106** – Ecalnea 23, Vilanueva 19, A. Palacios 14, M. Palacios 8, Cadiang 8, Wesley 7, Sablan 5, Bicara 2, Ferrer 2.

**MHS 72** – Duatin 19, Crisostimo 10, Sula 9, Manalili 8, Chan 7, Hidalgo 6, Ambalan 4, Sarmiento 3.

**Scoring by quarters:** 30-19, 60-32, 79-52, 106-72

Girls 14 Finals

**Settsu 61** – Tokimoto 21, Nakamori 16, Sakai 10, Yauchi 5, Nakano 4, Aoki 2, Shikokawa 1.

**MISO All-Stars 44** – Rangamar 14, Palero 11, Mizutani 8, Jetley 4, Joseph 4, Duenas 2.

**Scoring by quarters:** 13-all, 22-25, 41-37, 61-44.

Jones sizzles on the mound in Seniors

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.  
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REPORTER



Joshua Jones is leading all pitchers in the Seniors division of the 2009 Saipan Little League based on the latest individual statistics.

As of March 15, Jones had the lowest ERA of 0.74 with only two earned runs against him in 19 innings pitched.

The Jets are currently on top of the heap in the division with a 9-1 win-loss record in the five-team league.

Second-running Nokki Saralu of the Fielders is averaging an ERA of 1.31 and third-ranked Nathan Guerrero, also of the Fielders, is next with a 1.56 ERA.

DOLLAR

From Page 28

Final Four show.

Dollar Days cruised to the finals match, as it won the battle of spurts in the second semis game.

A decisive 15-4 windup in the final four minutes of the fourth quarter saved the top-seeded Dollar Days from a Final Four collapse.

Dollar Days was still ahead in the opening minutes of the fourth canto, 70-58, when Elmer Esdrelon led Athlete's Foot's 15-0 run to grab the lead, 73-70, with 4:04 remaining on the clock.

Bon Tamayo nailed his lone triple of the night from the right key to start Dollar Days' own rally. Wowie Abuel also notched a triple, while Kae Bernardo and Ivan De Vero made two points each to give Dollar Days' another double-digit lead, 83-73, going into the final two minutes of the game.

Athlete's Foot had several chances to mount another

The Fielders are third in the team standing with a 5-4 win-loss record, behind second-running D-9ers' 6-3.

Other ERA leaders are D-9ers' Eric Tenorio (2.33), Ol'Aces' Anthony DL. Guerrero (2.72), D-9ers' Dave Jones (2.96), Jets' Harry Nakamura (3.50), Lion King's Dominic Chargualaf (3.77), and Fielders' Juan Maratita (4.00).

Jones is also leading in strikeouts with 27 followed by teammate Harry Nakamura and the D-9ers' Dave Jones, who both knocked down 22 batters apiece.

Completing the list are Saralu (20), Chargualaf (18), DL. Guerrero (16), Maratita (16), Lion King's Ricardo Dela Cruz (13), Jets' Joe Palacios (11), and Jets' Eli Aughenbaugh (11).

comeback, but made poor shot selections, missing all its 11 attempts from downtown. Jawn Joyner muffed four triples, Esdrelon missed three, and Krisgel Arreza, and Nate Mateo faltered two shots each. Interestingly, Athlete's Foot went 2-for-3 in the paint, scoring their last four points on layups.

The Athlete's Foot-Dollar Days semis tiff ended in deadlocks both in the first (20-all) and second quarters (34-all). Bernardo then knocked in 12 points in the third period, as Dollar Days outgunned Athlete's Foot, 24-13, to take a 58-47 lead. Athlete's Foot moved within three in the fourth, 58-61, before a short 9-0 run gave Dollar Days a 12-point lead, 70-58. Both teams scored in spurts in the final seven minutes of the match with Dollar Days having the last say.

In the first semis match, KFC/Taco Bell had the breaks of the game on its side in the final four minutes of the game, getting four points from two technical fouls.

Sonny Lerio canned both free

In batting, Mike Iguel of the Ol'Aces averaged .565, hitting 13-for-23, while Maratita has .481 with his 13-for-27 performance. Eric Tenorio of the D-9ers is third with his .478 on 11-for-23.

Also included in the batting leaders are Saralu (.444), Dave Jones (.435), Fielders' Tom Agulto (.414), Dela Cruz (.400), Nakamura (.385), and Joshua Jones (.375).

Maratita has the most runs with 13, Saralu and Tenorio have three doubles, and they also join two others with three triples that included Maratita and Diego Camacho.

Five players have so far scored a homerun. They are Tenorio, Saralu, Tony Aguon, Tom Agulto, and Maratita.

throws of a technical foul on Ferdie Tobias, who shouted while the latter was pulling up for a triple. Defensive players are allowed only to utter words like "ball" and "miss" when an offensive player is going for a shot. Any other words or even clapping of hands would result on a technical foul.

Lerio's charities, followed by Larry Palero's undergoal basket, and Bonbon Cadagat's triple helped KFC/Taco Bell turn an 85-86 deficit to a 92-86 lead, with less than three minutes left in the game. Lerio made it 94-86 when he canned two more charities off a technical foul on Marlon De Dios, who was too close to the inbound passer.

A short 6-2 run capped by Errol Peredo's pair of free throws moved Incape within two, 94-92, with 42 seconds left in the game. Incape went for a pressured defense, but Cadagat eluded his defenders and passed the ball to Leo Itaas, who sprinted to the left wing and made the bucket.

Peredo missed in Incape's ensuing play, while Palero col-

met was in the semifinals last year with the Rangers winning and in the process grabbed the second finals berth.

The Falcons are also on a rampage, winning their last three games of the year after losing

Because of some ongoing construction at the American Memorial Park, organizers will move the main XTERRA compound about 200 feet from the original location.

Mojica said that parts of the XTERRA run are open and many local athletes are already practicing.

Registration for all of the events, XTERRA Saipan Championship (individual and team), XTERRA Sport (individual and team), the XTERRA Sunset Trail Run, the Tagaman Triathlon, and Tagaman Triathlon Team can be made online at www.saipansports.com, or at the Marianas Visitors Authority in Oleai.

Organizers promised that during this week of big sporting events, there would be five days of social and athletic activities for everyone to enjoy.

The official website is www.saipansports.com.

The Tagaman Triathlon will begin at the Pacific Islands Club



NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

The Jets' Joshua Jones, the current leader in ERA, shows his frustration after he was called out at first base.

lared the defensive board and sustained a cut near his left eyebrow, as Tim Wesley fouled the KFC center hard. Jerome Norita then stepped up to the 15-foot line replacing Palero, whose cut was still bleeding, and the former split his charities for the insurance basket.

First Game

**KFC/Taco Bell 99** – Cadagat 37, Lerio 26, Palero 12, Itaas 10, Norita 7, Capalad 3, Itibus 2, Alcantara 2.

**Incape 95** – Mendoza 25, Ranola 16, De Dios 15, Peredo 12, Wesley 11, Casabuena 7, Tobias 5, Rebuyon 3.

**Scoring by quarters:** 28-16, 46-39, 65-64, 99-95.

Second Game

**Dollar Days 88** – Bernardo 32, De Vero 24, Abuel 13, Demapan 8, Tamayo 7, Pantaleon 4.

**Athlete's Foot 77** – Esdrelon 25, Joyner 16, Mateo 14, Guiab 11, Arreza 7, Fernandez 2, Ong 2.

**Scoring by quarters:** 20-all 34-all, 58-47, 88-77.

their debut against D-9ers.

The Falcons played against defending champion Rock Steady last night, but results were not available as of press time. Rock Steady, Falcons, and D-9ers are tied with 3-1 win-loss cards.

beach at 6am on April 25 with finish line at Micro Beach.

Mojica advised the public that the Micro Beach Road will be closed from Middle Road to the finish line.

"So if you want to see the finish, get there before 8am or park at Smiling Cove and walk over. There will be food available for sale and it is very exciting," he said.

The XTERRA Sunset Trail Run cost is \$15 and will include a T-shirt and medals for top finishers.

Mojica said that \$5 from each registration will go to the Marianas Tourism Education Council.

TAGA, Inc. is looking for volunteers for both the XTERRA Saipan Championship and Tagaman, to assist police in directing and controlling traffic, manning water and feed stations, and help to direct athletes at different areas of the course.

Those interested in helping out can send an email to wolf@saipan.com.





### Fields' baskets send Pitt past Xavier

Levance Fields gave Pittsburgh the lead with a 3-pointer with 50 seconds left, then scored off a steal as the Panthers advanced to the regional finals for the first time in 35 years with a 60-55 win over Xavier.

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# Saipan Tribune Sports

### Bryant scores 30 points, Lakers beat Pistons

Kobe Bryant had a reason to smile when he left The Palace for a change.

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

# Settsu, Rays rule Friendship tourney

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

Japan's Settsu Red Impulse and Saipan Southern High School's Manta Rays downed separate foes yesterday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium to top the Settsu-Saipan Friendship Basketball Tournament.

Settsu took the girls' 14-and-under crown after defeating the MISO Junior Varsity All-Stars, 61-44, while the Rays clobbered the MHS Dolphins, 106-72, to notch the boys 16-and-under title.



The visiting Japanese team from Osaka saved the best for last, outgunning the MISO All-Stars in the fourth quarter, 20-7, en route to a 17-point win. Settsu was unbeaten in the two-day tournament, as it also walloped Hopwood Junior High School, 93-42, Thursday.

The title game between Settsu and the MISO All-Stars was a seesaw battle in the first



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Settsu Red Impulse's girls' 14-and-under team and its coaching staff pose with their championship trophy during the awards ceremony for the Settsu-Saipan Friendship Basketball Tournament yesterday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

three periods. Settsu led by as much as four in the first, then the All-Stars took the lead midway before the

game ended in a deadlock after 10 minutes of play, 13-all.

In the second period, Settsu was held to nine points, allow-

ing the All-Stars to take a 25-22 halftime lead. Settsu regained the lead in the third, 41-37, with Shiho Tokimoto making 10 of

the team's 19 markers in that canto, and Hirai Nakamori adding seven.

Settsu then broke away in

the fourth quarter, as it showed good ball movement, played a fast-paced game, and shut out

See SETTSU on Page 27

## Dollar Days, KFC/Taco Bell set title duel

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

Dollar Days and KFC/Taco Bell showed poise in the crucial stage of their respective semis games to arrange a championship duel in the 2009 Navy



Hill Friendship Basketball League.

KFC/Taco Bell clinched the first finals ticket after slipping past Inchcape, 99-95, Thursday night, while Dollar Days sealed

the second finals berth after outlasting Athlete's Foot, 88-77.

A sizeable crowd watched the semis games and did not mind staying late in the evening at the Garapan Basketball court, as they were treated to an exciting

See DOLLAR on Page 27

## Iguel sizzles with 6 runs in Rangers win

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.  
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REPORTER



Leadoff batter Juan Iguel had a perfect offensive night as Ford Rangers ran over the Tigers, 25-11, Wednesday night in the 2009 Budweiser Saipan Major League at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Iguel's first five at bats were all hits—two doubles, two singles, and one triple. He advanced to first in his sixth try and the centerfielder scored six runs, the first player to accomplish the feat in a single game this season.

With the win, the Rangers broke a four-way tie and seized the solo lead with a 4-1 card.

Iguel and the rest of the



NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

J.J. Laniyo holds two bats while on deck. He scored two runs in the Rangers' 25-11 trashing off the Tigers Wednesday night in the 2009 Budweiser Saipan Major League.

team scored at will as they registered a total of 24 hits, six doubles, and four triples in six and a half innings.

Roy Celis and Pete Teigita had three runs each and their teammates also contributed well in a one-sided affair that exacted the Tigers its fourth straight setback for a 1-4 win-loss record.

The Rangers scored six runs three times (third, fifth, and sixth inning) as they completed the win via mercy rule.

With the score at 19-4, starting pitcher Dung Tenorio was rested in the fifth inning and the Rangers needed two relievers to come home with the win.

The Tigers scored four runs in the top of sixth as four of their batters reached first on base on balls.

That forced the Rangers to pull Franco Flores from the mound in lieu of Greg Sanchez,

See IGUEL on Page 27



Dibens

## Dibens to lead cast in XTERRA Saipan

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.  
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REPORTER



Reigning world champion

Julie Dibens of the United Kingdom will be leading the strong field of professional triathletes for next month's XTERRA Saipan Championship.

Wolf Mojica, of organizer Taga Inc., said some 60 amateur and professional athletes have already registered

See DIBENS on Page 27



ROSELYN B. MONROYO